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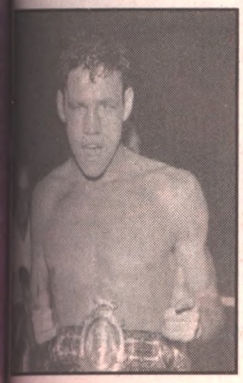

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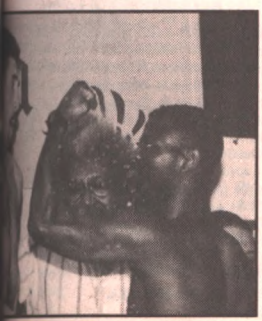

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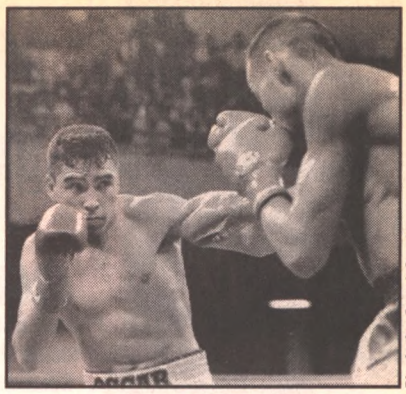

Photo by Brent Cook

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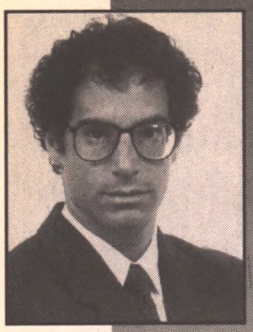

Ringside

Great fighters are judged for what they do with their titles. I'm sure history will be kind to James Toney. But I'm beginning to wonder about Roy Jones.

Since the marvelously talented Jones won the vacant IBF middleweight title in May 1993, he's won as he's pleased in non-title fights against Sugarboy Malinga, Fermin Chirino, and Danny Garcia. Picasso didn't bother with coloring books, and Jones shouldn't be wasting his time—or ours—with opponents who can't provide him with adequate sparring, much less a good fight. As we went to press, Jones was scheduled to make his first defense, a mandatory against Thomas Tate in late-May. When asked why he hasn't been matched against appropriate opposition, the champion talks about money. He knows what he's worth, and he's not going to fight for chump change.

Then there's Toney. I called Jackie Kallen, the IBF super middleweight champion's manager, and asked her how Toney's future might unfold. She said Toney will defend on June 4 against an unnamed opponent in Glasgow, the bout to be televised by ABC. Toward the end of July, Toney will take on former light heavyweight champion Prince Charles Williams. Jones has been penciled in for October 1, but negotiations haven't yet begun. There'll be another defense in December. Then, next spring, will come a showdown with England's Chris Eubank on the other side of the pond.

"James loves fighting people in their backyards," she explained. Toney is fearless, and so is his manager.

About a million things could happen, of course, to change plans. But credit Kallen and Toney for their willingness to fight the best opposition, something they've done for the past three years. For them, it seems, money hasn't been a problem.

Which brings us back to October 1. Jones-Toney is a dream matchup. In fact, Jones may be the only fighter between 160 and 175 pounds who has the talent to threaten Toney. But the issue of money could kill the fight.

"Jones has his own idea what he's worth," said Kallen. "That's his business, but he's sitting home a lot."

For the most part, Jones has remained independent of promoters. Sugar Ray Leonard went that route and was wildly successful. Trouble is, Roy Jones isn't Sugar Ray Leonard.

In January, Jones signed a three-fight deal with Bob Arum. The first fight will be against Tate, and the second against an unnamed opponent on the same card as Toney-Williams. The third fight is supposed to be against Toney.

Jones' problem with Arum, said his co-manager, Stan Levin, is that "money's been talked about and guaranteed, but when the fight comes, it's not there. We want James Toney so bad we can taste it. If James goes up to light heavyweight, Roy says he'll fight him there, then drop back down to super middleweight. But Roy is not going to let anyone step on him. He says if he has to stay in Pensacola [Florida] and fight for $50,000, that's what he's gonna do."

Levin says a Toney fight should be worth a minimum of $2-million for Jones. If he can't secure that much for his fighter, maybe I'll chip in. I still think Jones can be a great fighter, but I'm beginning to forget why.

***

It's my sincere pleasure to introduce Jack Fiske's debut column in THE RING. You'll find "Fiske On Fights" on page 65. Fiske, formerly a columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, is the dean of boxing writers. His addition to THE RING adds a touch of class. His column will appear bi-monthly.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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REMEMBERING JERSEY JOE

Walcott (left) finally got it right against Charles

I was pleased that *The Times* in London saw fit to carry an obituary on Jersey Joe Walcott, who passed in late-February. In my opinion, Walcott rates near the top of all heavyweights. But he was never given such acclaim by the so-called experts.

In the eyes of many, including Joe Louis, Walcott defeated "The Brown Bomber" in their first bout. He scored two knockdowns but was denied the decision. If you've seen the video of Walcott's 1951 contest against Ezzard Charles, you've witnessed the most devastating short left hook ever seen in the ring. The punch made Walcott world champion at age 37. And in defense of the title, he was giving Rocky Marciano a boxing lesson when caught the 13th round. It was the most difficult fight of Marciano's career.

Although Jersey Joe reigned only from 1951 to 1952, for me he was the greatest, both in the ring and out. true champion.

BOB MILLER
Essex, England

IS OSCAR AN ACT?

When is Oscar De La Hoya going to fight someone who isn't over-the-hill? De La Hoya has kayoed Shea Finkel, Steve Nelson, and Robert Mittleman, but all three were punch-drunk from having been managers for t long. What does this have to do with boxing? Absolutely nothing, which is the point.

If you can't fight, you have to sell yourself before the boxing world finds out about you. Let's see if Os finds the guts to challenge someone holding a WBA, WBC, or IBF title belt. Only then will he deserve an respect.

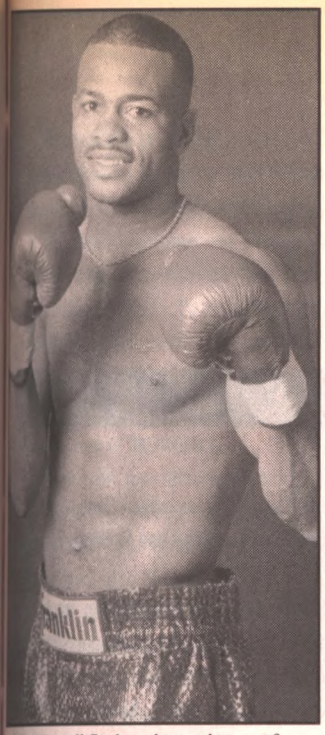
ROGER KING
Pennington Gap, VA

KEEPING UP WITH JONES

I've had enough of the overrated and overhyped Roy Jones. Anyone who thinks this guy is a great fighter will become one, doesn't know the fight game. People who know the history of the middleweight division must laughing at this impostor.

I'm always leery of "fighters" who come into the ring like circus clowns, with all that foolish dancing gyrating. They should use that much energy *during* the fight. That's why it's such a pleasure when the characters get their stuff handed to them. (Anthony Hembrick-Booker Word, Roger Mayweather-Ro Lockridge, and Alvin Hayes-Yogi Buchanan come to mind.)

When these guys come into the ring with flash and flair, it's usually to conceal their minimal abilities (Ha



Is Jones all flash and no substance?

Camacho, Jorge Paez). When Jones fought the average Bernard Hopkins, we saw what he was made of. He tried to dismiss his lackluster performance by pointing to the magnitude of the fight, but isn't that when greatness is supposed to surface? Jones looked even worse in his next fight, vs. Sugarboy Malinga. Heaven help him if he ever finds himself in a ring opposite Lamar Parks, Gerald McClellan, Nigel Benn, James Toney, or even Michael Nunn. Then everyone will see why his father protected him for so long.

DONALD R. DINKINS
Inglewood, CA

IN APPRECIATION OF YAQUI

I would like to take this opportunity to applaud you for the selection of the story on Yaqui Lopez as "THE RING Classic" in the April 1994 issue ("Yaqui Lopez: Can He Find Eternal Happiness As A Contender?"). As a 25-year-old fight fan, that era indoctrinated me in boxing. Yaqui was a TV staple. To see "The Bible Of Boxing" recognize a fine warrior who was not a superstar shows the depth of your appreciation of this great sport. I hope to see more articles of this kind in the future.

ANTHONY MASTROPIETRO
Philadelphia, PA

J.C. CRYBABY

Julio Cesar Chavez is indeed the best, pound-for-pound, in boxing. The best crybaby, that is. His behavior following his loss to Frankie Randall was appalling. In the big picture, referee Richard Steele's deduction of points for low blows was fitting; without being penalized, Chavez would have won on points. Chavez clearly lost the fight, then blamed everyone but himself. Hopefully, before the rematch he'll attend the Riddick Bowe School of Sportsmanship.

MIKE TOMASI
Jacksonville, AR

BOOKING IT

I enjoyed "The 10 Greatest Boxing Novels Of All-Time," Pete Ehrmann's story in the March 1994 issue of THE RING. I realize not every boxing-theme novel can make the top 10, but I would like to recommend *China Boy*, by Gus Lee. Lee is a relatively unknown writer, but his coming-of-age novel captures the dignity of boxing and boxers without ignoring reality and the pains of combat.

Another boxing book that is well worth reading: *Shadow Box*, by George Plimpton.

JOSEPH LISIECKI
Orland Park, IL

A HEAVYWEIGHT WORTH WATCHING

I just saw Larry Donald beat Jeremy Williams on television. The boring fight served to confirm my belief that there's only one young heavyweight capable of joining the Holyfields, Bowes, Lewises, and Moorers at the top, and that's the undefeated Shannon Briggs.

The overhyped Williams looked as if he wanted to be anywhere but in a boxing ring. Donald clearly won, but was hardly impressive. Briggs, on the other hand, has both skills and star potential. He commands your attention, and he's big and strong enough to be dominant.

Briggs could be the heavyweight of the future

There are other heavyweight prospects out there, but there's something wrong with each one of them. Buster Mathis Jr. can't punch, not even a little bit. David Tua is too short. Samson Po'uha is too slow. Williams, who is too small, was exposed by Donald. And Donald is one-dimensional (jab-right, jab-right). Briggs has a world-class jab, good power, excellent mobility, and lots of toughness. His level of competition has been mediocre, but remember, he's only 22.

Make sure to keep an eye on the next great heavyweight champion of the world, Shannon Briggs.

ROBERT RISKEWICZ
Mt. Vernon, NY ■

Round One

RAY ARCEL, 1899-1994

It was the morning after "No Mas," and in New Orleans, promoter Don King, manager Carlos Eleta, and trainer Ray Arcel met with the press to consider the first great question of the '80s: Why had Roberto Duran quit against Sugar Ray Leonard?

No one, of course, knew the answer. Duran had been a symbol. Maybe that was the problem; maybe, like Hemingway, he couldn't live up to the macho image he had helped create. There was a lot of shoulder-shrugging and quizzical looks. But not from Arcel. His fighter had done the unthinkable, which left him with a stab-wound in his chest. He was hurt, and unable to hide it. Five months earlier, before Duran-Leonard I, Arcel, a spry 80, had entered the ring screaming at referee Carlos Padilla in an effort to secure an edge. Now he was pale and quiet and confused—but still dignified. "I don't know what happened," he said. It was impossible not to feel for him.

On March 7, Arcel died in New York City at age 94. He worked with more than 2,000 fighters, and felt for every one of them. A list of his world champions underlines his place among the game's greatest trainers: Ezzard Charles, Jim Braddock, Bob Olin, Tony Zale, Barney Ross, Billy Soose, Ceferino Garcia, Lou Brouillard, Teddy Yarosz, Freddie Steele, Jack "Kid" Berg, Peppermint Frazer, Abe Goldstein, Frankie Genaro, Sixto Escobar, Charley Phil Rosenberg, Roberto Duran, Larry Holmes, and Benny Leonard.

Fittingly, Arcel's last public appearance came at the 1993 Christmas party of Ring 8, the New York City chapter of the Veteran Boxers Association. The VBA's primary function is to help former fighters. Arcel had been doing that all his life. "There wasn't fighter I ever worked with that ever got hurt," he once boasted. "At least not with me in his corner."

One of boxing's last links to an era long gone by, Arcel was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, and grew up in New York City's East Harlem. At one point he wanted to be a doctor. He became much, much more. After engaging in eight pro fights, he began to learn corner work. "The trainer," he once said, "is the boss." Arcel also became psychologist, strategist, conditioner, father-figure, and friend.

"He was one of the best people I've ever met, whether in boxing or otherwise," Eddie Futch told THE RING. "We were only acquaintances until we worked together with Larry Holmes for his fight with Gerry Cooney [in 1982]. We became friends and regularly corresponded. When Ray became sick, Stephanie [Arcel's wife] would write the letters for him."

Futch attended a brief service for Arcel, which included remembrances from Jerry Izenberg, a columnist for the *Newark Star-Ledger*. "You did not simply know Ray Arcel," said Izenberg, "you experienced him. We come here not to say goodbye to an old friend, but to celebrate the joy, the love, and the example he gave to all of us."

Duran was not among those who attended the service; he was in Panama, and was told of his mentor's death only the day before.

"I was very, very hurt to hear of his death; he was very big in my career," Duran told the *New York Post*. "I'll always remember that little old man pushing me off the chair [at the start of rounds] ... He was always very nice to my family, and trainers don't have to do that. He always treated me like I was his little baby."

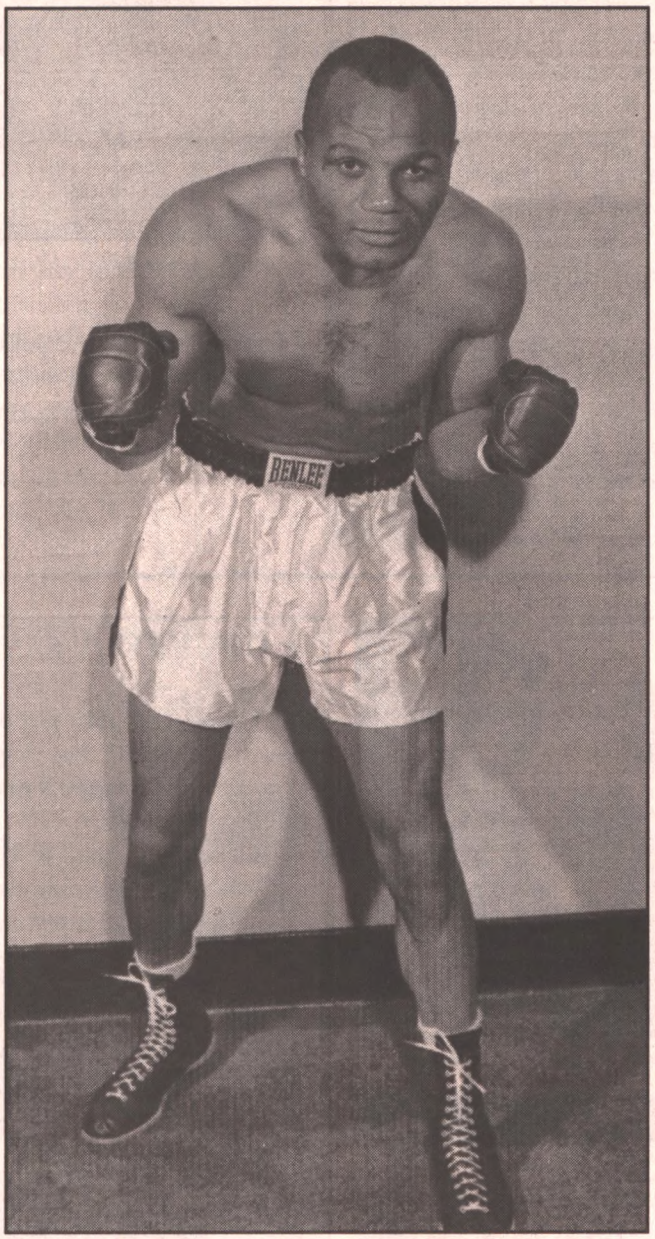
That's why "No Mas" broke Arcel's heart. He didn't just train his fighters, he *lived* them. To say they don't make 'em like that anymore wouldn't be quite accurate. Ray Arcel, you see, was one of a kind.

—Steve Farhood

JERSEY JOE WALCOTT, 1914-1994

The world heavyweight champion during a simpler time, Jersey Joe Walcott died in his sleep on February 25 at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, New Jersey. He was 80.

Walcott, a kind man and underrated fighter, evokes many images, but almost no one remembers him as a young man. He was born Arnold Cream on January 31, 1914, in Merchantville, New Jersey, but he didn't want to be known as a "Cream" puff; he renamed himself after the original Joe Walcott, the legendary welterweight champion from the turn of the century.



There were few opportunities for black heavyweights in the '30s—unless your name was Joe Louis. Ironically, Walcott turned pro under Jack Blackburn, who in 1934 left him to work with Louis. The early part of Walcott's career was filled with stops and starts. A husband and father, he couldn't support his family on his meager ring earnings. There were part-time jobs, full-time jobs, and sometimes no jobs at all. Jersey Joe fought and retired and fought again, at one point living on a weekly relief check that amounted to $9.50.

In the '40s, Walcott faced many of the world-class black fighters (Elmer Ray, Lee Q. Murray, Curtis Sheppard) who were ignored by the contenders. He was finally given a chance in 1947, his 17th year as a pro. Challenging "The Brown Bomber" at Madison Square Garden, he scored two knockdowns but still lost a split decision. "I'm sorry, Joe," an embarrassed Louis said to him after the decision was announced.

Walcott lost by knockout in the rematch, then dropped a pair of title fights to Ezzard Charles. His patient, counterpunching style wasn't always pleasing to watch, but he nonetheless secured a third bout vs. Charles. In his *fifth* try at the title, on July 18, 1951, Walcott won the championship with a single left hook in the seventh round at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. At 37, he was the oldest fighter ever to win the heavyweight title.

"I feinted a left hook to the midsection," recalled Walcott. "He was pretty good at keeping his guard up, but this time he dropped his right arm to ward off the power of my punch. When he did that, I just turned my arm over, threw the hook at his chin. I made a perfect connection, and it was lights out for Ezzard."

Walcott outpointed Charles in his first defense, then, on September 23, 1952, faced an undefeated and heavily hyped contender named Rocky Marciano. For 12 rounds, the powerpunchers traded crushing blows. Slicker than the challenger, and having scored a knockdown, Walcott was ahead on points. In the 13th, however, Marciano landed a right hand, and Walcott, who had won the title with a single punch, lost it in the same manner.

Walcott, 50-18-1 (30), retired after lasting less than a round in the Marciano rematch. He fought from 1930 to 1953, and long enough to have beaten a father (Phil Johnson) and his son (future light heavyweight champion Harold Johnson). His post-boxing career included work as a parole officer, a boxing referee, and a sheriff and director of community relations in Camden. In 1976, he was named chairman of the New Jersey boxing commission, a position he held until 1984, and through the heyday of casino boxing in Atlantic City.

"This is the kind of guy he was," said cutman and recordkeeper Ralph Citro. "When he saw two kids fighting in a schoolyard, he stopped them, then sat them down and talked to them. And one time we were driving in his car and he saw an old man in an overcoat who was barefoot. Joe brought him to a store and bought him shoes and socks. He never forgot where he came from."

In a simpler time, Jersey Joe Walcott was a legitimate American hero. We don't have many more to spare.

—Steve Farhood

THE BIRTH OF A RUMOR

In the subculture of boxing, a rumor spreads faster than a brushfire. And the dirtier the rumor, the faster the phone calls are made. After a few hours, everyone is asking the same question:

"Have you heard about Lamar Parks?"

On March 4, top-rated middleweight Parks was supposed to challenge WBC champion Gerald McClellan on a Don King-promoted card in Las Vegas. About three weeks before the fight, Parks, who lives in Greenville, South Carolina, took a test for AIDS, which is required by the Nevada commission. "The results," said Bob Goodman, president of Garden State Boxing, which promotes Parks, "came back gibberish." Parks subsequently took a second, more extensive test. Negative.

"[After the first test] Pat English, our attorney, felt obligated to call Don King's attorney about a potential glitch," said Goodman, who previously worked for King as a publicist and matchmaker. "Of course, with all the sensitivity King has, everyone swore they wouldn't say a word. A couple of days later I started getting phone calls.

"It wasn't a very nice thing for them to do. Even if Lamar had tested HIV-positive, that would be his decision on how he'd want to handle it."

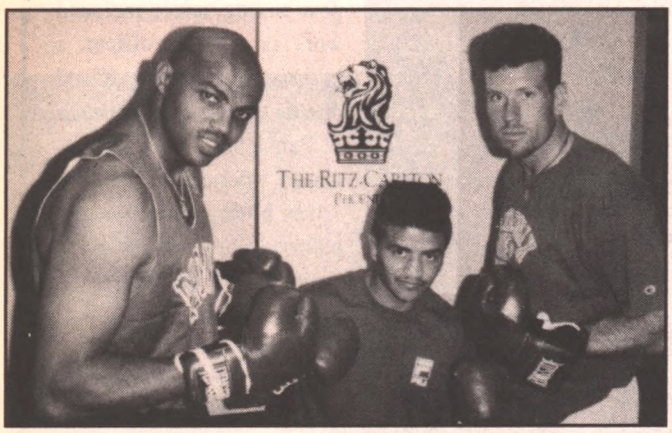
As it turned out, Parks fell out because of a shoulder injury suffered two weeks before the fight.

Asked why King's organization would spread such a rumor, Goodman said, "I think they had reason to do it. They're insensitive, number one. But they never wanted the fight."

Lamar Parks with father and trainer David

Responded Mike Marley, a publicist for King, "Why would we try and kill our own fight? What would be the angle on that? It defies the imagination. The rumor didn't start from the Don King organization and wasn't spread by us, either."

—Steve Farhood



(From left) Charles Barkley, Michael Carbajal, and Dan Majerle

A NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE

If you're looking for a role model, it's the guy in the middle.

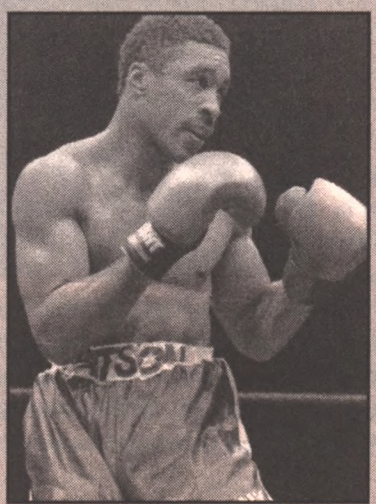
As we went to press, former junior flyweight champion Michael Carbajal was scheduled to box exhibitions against Phoenix Suns all-stars Charles Barkley and Dan Majerle at a black-tie dinner/fight card at the Ritz-Carlton in Phoenix. Proceeds from the April 14 card will be donated to the development of Carbajal's 9th Street Gym, a converted church that is scheduled to open in the near-future. It's been Carbajal's dream to open a gym in his neighborhood.

Wonder if Charles has a good chin.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMEBACK

Two-and-a-half years after suffering brain injuries during his rematch with Chris Eubank, England's Michael Watson made a triumphant return to ringside at Earls Court 2 for Nigel Benn's victory over Henry Wharton.

The 29-year-old Watson, who fought for his life during a lengthy stay in the hospital, received the most prolonged and sincere ovation of the night from the 8,000 fans in attendance. He was clearly moved.



Watson has returned to ringside

Wheelchair-bound, bespectacled, and slightly puffed up, Watson is still recovering. He has become a national hero, for his fighting spirit inside the ring and, more importantly, outside, too.

—Brian Doogan

COMEBACK DU JOUR

Who said old warriors just fade away?

When former two-division world champion Lupe Pintor lost the junior featherweight title to Samart Payakarun in 1986, it seemed his career was over. Flash forward eight years. On January 14, the 39-year-old Mexican began a comeback, rising from a second-round knockdown to score a unanimous 10-round decision over Carmelo Gomez in Tijuana. Pintor, who wants to campaign at junior lightweight, scaled more than 140.

Pintor was back in action on February 25 in Hermosillo. This time, the opponent didn't follow the script. Ramon "Monito" Sanchez jabbed and moved, bloodied Pintor's nose, and took a 10-round decision. Only about 800 spectators paid to see the comebacking former champion.

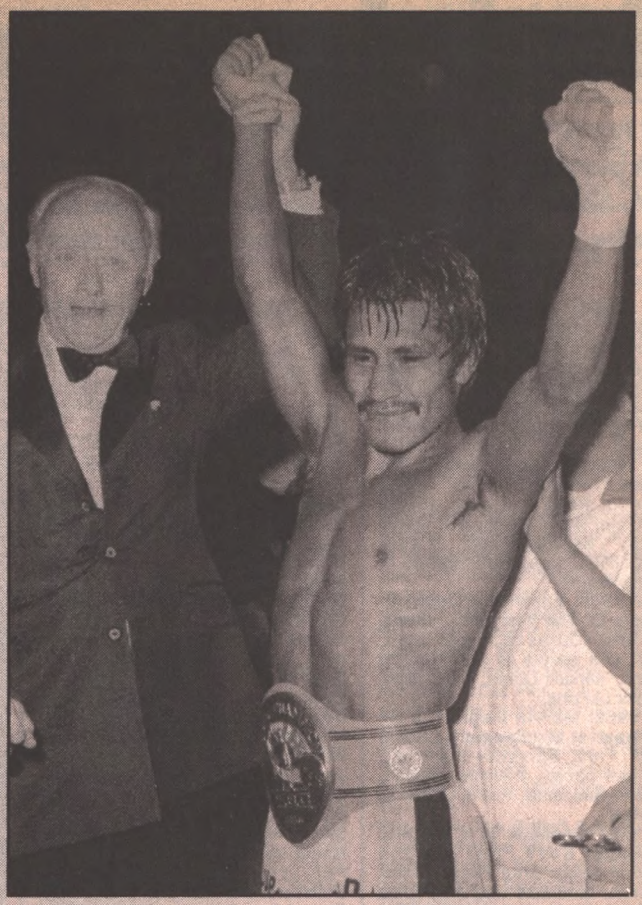
Pintor, 55-10-2 (41), is not ready to re-retire. He says he doesn't need the money, but fights for the glory because boxing is in his blood. There's talk of a non-title bout with WBC lightweight king Miguel Angel Gonzalez, a rematch with Payakarun or legendary former bantamweight champion Carlos Zarate, whom he dethroned in 1979, or a tour of Mexico.

"I'm going to continue working harder," he said. "I need the mountains and the gym. I'm going to dedicate myself as I should. I've always been well-prepared, but I haven't had to put out a lot in the ring. Now I have to work harder to keep up with these younger opponents.

"I just haven't gotten back the rhythm and ability I need yet. [The loss to Sanchez] was just a small setback. I'll be back."

That boxing bug is insidious; it won't let go.

—Bruce Williams



Pintor during his championship prime

10 REASONS WHY BOXING HASN'T RETURNED TO FREE TV

10. FCC has judged Jorge Paez more obscene than Howard Stern
9. Boxing ratings can't match Seniors Synchronized Swimming
8. Golf is so exciting
7. Lou Duva acts crazy; Bobby Knight really is
6. Howard Cosell's threat to ABC: Televise boxing and I'm returning to *Monday Night Football*
5. Gil Clancy refuses to become Sweet Science's version of Dick Vitale
4. Advertisers fearful Fox will air Mark Gastineau comeback bout
3. Alex Wallau still sore James Toney got nod over Dave Tiberi
2. Frank "The Animal" Fletcher refuses to come out of retirement
1. Marv & Ferdie viewed as cheap imitation of Beavis & Butt-head

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

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Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

May 1982: Marvin Hagler: Is He The Greatest Middleweight Champ Ever? Plus: Salvador Sanchez, southpaw boxers, Fletcher-Braxton, Arguello-Busceme, Primo Carnera, Max Baer.

July 1982: Leonard: Is It All Over For Sugar Ray? Plus: Ray and Lenny Mancini, Greg Page, James Kinchen, Coetzee-LeDoux, first-round knockouts, Jack Johnson, Ton Canzoneri.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

March 1983: Larry Holmes: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: year in review, fight, round, and upsets of year, Bobby Chacon, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, Duran-Laing.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

August 1986

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II*.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson: Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

March 1990: The '80s-Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

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Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez-The Ring Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

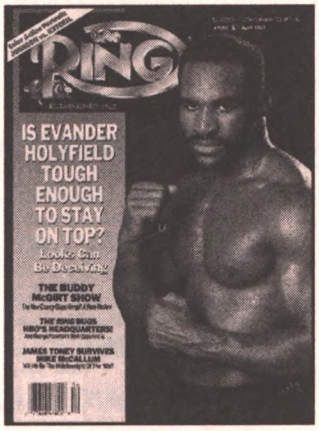
Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads-Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).



April 1992

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

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July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen ... Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' 'n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State of the Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

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April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

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June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?" Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, Richard Steele, The Brawl at the Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Sept. 1993: Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense: Beating Tucker Was The Easy Part. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Mexico, Sergei Artemiev, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Gerald McClellan-Julian Jackson, Michael Spinks (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

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Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, All-Time Top 10: Cuba, Tyson-Spinks (color).

Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

Feb. 1994: The British Are Coming! Does America Have Anthing To Worry About? Plus: Felix Trinidad, Junior Jones, fight clubs (Part I), Toney-Hearns.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994: 92-Page Special—Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

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The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended March 24, 1994

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Riddick Bowe

Anaclet Wamba

Mike McCallum

Chris Eubank

Freddie Pendleton

Jose Luis Bueno

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. EVANDER HOLYFIELD — Atlanta, GA 30-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)
2. RIDDICK BOWE — Fort Washington, MD 34-1
3. LENNOX LEWIS — England 24-0 (WBC Champ)
4. MICHAEL MOORER — Detroit, MI 34-0
5. OLIVER McCALL — Chicago, IL 24-5
6. RAZOR RUDDOCK — Ft. Lauderdale, FL 29-4-1
7. HERBIE HIDE — England 26-0
8. LARRY HOLMES — Easton, PA 60-4
9. PHIL JACKSON — Miami, FL 30-1
10. LARRY DONALD — Cincinnati, OH 13-0

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. ORLIN NORRIS — Campo, CA 40-3 (WBA Champ)
2. ANACLET WAMBA — France 40-2 (WBC Champ)
3. AL COLE — Spring Valley, NY 24-1 (IBF Champ)
4. ARTHUR WILLIAMS — Las Vegas, NV 21-2-1
5. BOBBY CZYZ — Montgomery, NJ 42-5
6. THOMAS HEARNS — Detroit, MI 53-4-1
7. NATE MILLER — Philadelphia, PA 23-3
8. NORBERT EKASSI — France 20-4-1
9. AKIM TAFER — France 17-4
10. KENNY KEENE — Emmett, ID 26-0

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. VIRGIL HILL — Bismarck, ND 38-1 (WBA Champ)
2. HENRY MASKE — Germany 21-0 (IBF Champ)
3. MIKE McCALLUM — Brooklyn, NY 46-2-1
4. PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS — Mansfield, OH 35-5-2
5. JEFF HARDING — Australia 23-1 (WBC Champ)
6. LEEONZER BARBER — Detroit, MI 19-1
7. EGERTON MARCUS — Canada 12-0
8. FABRICE TIOZZO — France 28-12
9. FRANK TATE — Houston, TX 35-3
10. ERNESTO MAGDALENO — Westminster, CA 17-0-1

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. JAMES TONEY — Ann Arbor, MI 43-0-2 (IBF Champ)
2. NIGEL BENN — England 35-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. CHRIS EUBANK — England 37-0-1
4. STEVE LITTLE — Reading, PA 22-13-2 (WBA Champ)
5. MICHAEL NUNN — Davenport, IA 42-2
6. FRANK LILES — N. Hollywood, CA 24-1
7. TONY THORNTON — Glassboro, NJ 32-6-1
8. TIM LITTLES — Flint, MI 23-1
9. ANTOINE BYRD — Los Angeles, CA 24-4-1
10. VINCENZO NARDIELLO — Italy 24-2

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. ROY JONES — Pensacola, FL 25-0 (IBF Champ)
2. GERALD McCLELLAN — Freeport, IL 30-2 (WBC Champ)
3. JOHN DAVID JACKSON — Seattle, WA 30-0 (WBA Champ)
4. REGGIE JOHNSON — Houston, TX 35-3-1
5. JULIAN JACKSON — Virgin Islands 49-2
6. THOMAS TATE — Houston, TX 30-2
7. LAMAR PARKS — Greeneville, SC 27-1
8. BERNARD HOPKINS — Philadelphia, PA 25-2
9. VINNY PAZIENZA — Cranston, RI 36-5
10. QUINCY TAYLOR — Dallas, TX 22-3

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. SIMON BROWN
Mount Airy, MD 41-2 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina 47-1 (WBA Champ)
3. GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy 57-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY 20-5
5. TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA 37-4
6. CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO 30-1
7. AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY 38-2
8. RONALD WRIGHT
St. Petersburg, FL 23-0
9. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 15-1
10. JAVIER CASTILLEJOS
Spain 32-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA 32-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
Puerto Rico 23-0 (IBF Champ)
3. CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland 30-0 (WBA Champ)
4. BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY 60-3-1
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico 55-0
6. IKE QUARTEY
Ghana 25-0
7. WILFREDO RIVERA
Puerto Rico 17-0-1
8. OBA CARR
Detroit, MI 29-0
9. LARRY BARNES
Mt. Vernon, NY 31-1
10. ANTHONY JONES
Detroit, MI 33-5-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. FRANKIE RANDALL
Warren, OH 49-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico 89-1-1
3. JAKE RODRIGUEZ
Brentwood, NY 24-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. JUAN COGGI
Argentina 66-2-2 (WBA Champ)
5. ZACK PADILLA
Azusa, CA 20-1-1
6. KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 11-0
7. CHARLES MURRAY
Rochester, NY 31-2
8. CARLOS GONZALEZ
Mexico 38-1
9. DAVID KAMAU
Los Angeles, CA 22-0
10. TONY LOPEZ
Sacramento, CA 44-4-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico 30-0 (WBC Champ)
2. RAFAEL RUELAS
Arleta, CA 40-1 (IBF Champ)
3. NAZAROV OLZUBEK
Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
Atlantic City, NJ 22-0-1
5. FREDDIE PENDLETON
Miami, FL 35-19-4
6. JOEY GAMACHE
Lewiston, ME 34-1
7. JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY
France 45-4-2
8. MIGUEL JULIO
Colombia 24-1-1
9. SHARMBA MITCHELL
Takoma Park, MD 30-1
10. DINGAAN THOBELA
South Africa 29-3-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana 36-2-2 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico 34-3 (IBF Champ)
4. CALVIN GROVE
Coatesville, PA 45-5
5. GABE RUELAS
Arleta, CA 37-2
6. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Montebello, CA 12-0
7. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
Argentina 44-1-1
8. REGILIO TUUR
Whitestone, NY 33-3-1
9. ED HOPSON
St. Louis, MO 22-0
10. MARCOS GUEVARA
Venezuela 21-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY 37-0 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI 35-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. ELOY ROJAS
Venezuela 28-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. GOYO VARGAS
Mexico 30-4-1
5. YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea 25-2-1
6. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX 26-0-2
7. STEVE ROBINSON
Wales 17-9-1
8. MIGUEL ARROZAL
Portland, OR 39-1
9. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
Mexico 29-2-2
10. FRANCISCO SEGURA
Coachella, CA 24-6-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV 26-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY 49-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico 39-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. WELCOME NCITA
South Africa 33-1
5. JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico 29-3-2
6. JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX 38-3-1
7. JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA 46-6
8. CESAR SOTO
Mexico 36-5-2
9. JAE WON CHOI
South Korea 18-0
10. JOSE BADILLO
Puerto Rico 14-0

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX 36-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY 32-0 (WBA Champ)
3. YASUEI YAKUSHIJI
Japan 20-2-1 (WBC Champ)
4. ELIECER JULIO
Colombia 24-1
5. JUNG IL BYUN
South Korea 10-1
6. RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico 15-0
7. VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico 34-12-2
8. VINCENZO BELCASTRO
Italy 26-5-3
9. DAORUNG CHUWATANA
Thailand 49-4-2
10. WAYNE McCULLOUGH
Las Vegas, NV 12-0

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. KATSUYA ONIZUKA
Japan 22-0 (WBA Champ)
2. JULIO BORBOA
Mexico 21-4 (IBF Champ)
3. JOSE LUIS BUENO
Mexico 24-3-1 (WBC Champ)
4. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
Mexico 29-0
5. SUNG KIL MOON
South Korea 20-2
6. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
Thailand 45-4
7. JOHNNY BREDAHL
Denmark 20-0
8. CARLOS SALAZAR
Argentina 30-4-3
9. KOTARO HAYASHI
Japan 12-3
10. CECILIO ESPINO
Huntington Park, CA 27-3-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Japan 17-0 (WBC Champ)
2. SAN SOW PLOENCHIT
Thailand 17-0 (WBA Champ)
3. PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN
Thailand 17-0 (IBF Champ)
4. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA 35-4-1
5. DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela 17-1
6. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
Mexico 23-11-2
7. MARK JOHNSON
Washington, D.C. 17-1
8. DANNY ROMERO
Albuquerque, NM 14-0
9. ROBBIE REGAN
Wales 13-1-3
10. ARTHUR JOHNSON
Minneapolis, MN 8-1

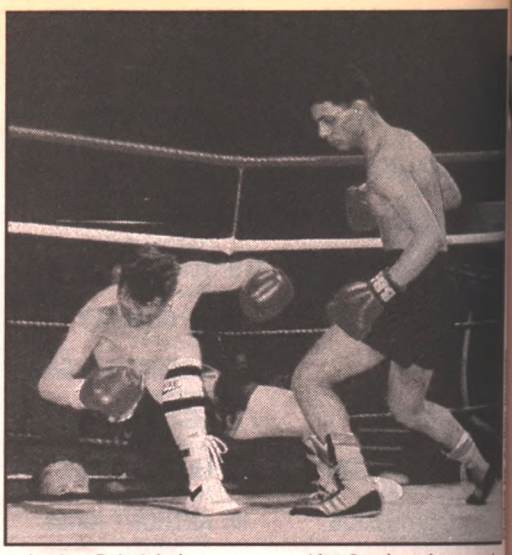
JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Mexico 38-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ 29-1
3. LEO GAMEZ
Venezuela 25-3 (WBA Champ)
4. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico 38-4-3
5. ERIC GRIFFIN
Jasper, TN 11-1
6. LEON SALAZAR
Panama 15-3-1
7. JOSE DeJESUS
Puerto Rico 26-2-1
8. JESUS CHONG
Mexico 22-5
9. FAHLAN SAKKIRIN
Thailand 25-2-1
10. ROBINSON CUESTA
Panama 23-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Welterweight
2. JAMES TONEY
Super Middleweight
3. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Bantamweight
4. EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Heavyweight
5. RICARDO LOPEZ
Strawweight
6. CHIQUITA GONZALEZ
Junior Flyweight
7. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Junior Flyweight
8. FRANKIE RANDALL
Junior Welterweight
9. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Junior Welterweight
10. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Junior Featherweight

New Faces



Against Britain's best prospect, Alan Ley lasted two rounds

PRO RECORD

1992		
April 14	Ricky Beard, Mansfield	KO 2
April 25	Shaun Norman, Manchester	KO 2
May 23	Andrew Bloomer, Birmingham	KO 2
July 14	Miguel Matthews, Mayfair	KO 3
Oct. 7	Des Gargano, Sunderland	KO 4
Nov. 12	Peter Buckley, Liverpool	W 6
1993		
Feb. 24	Alan Ley, Wembley	KO 2
May 26	Kevin Jenkins, Mansfield	KO 3
Sept. 24	Chris Clarkson, Dublin	KO 2
1994		
Jan. 29	Peter Buckley, Cardiff	KO 9

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	10	10	0	0	9

Naseem Hamed

Bantamweight

By Brian Doogan

Self-assured and cocky about his profession but a devout follower of Islam, Naseem Hamed is the most precocious young talent in British boxing. Only 20, and unbeaten in 160 professional fights, Hamed is comfortable with the high expectations that envelop him, convinced he has the equipment and the temperament to realize his aspirations.

Insiders are excited; Harry Mullan, the respected editor of *Boxing News*, regards Hamed as the best prospect he has seen in 17 years.

Hamed's trainer, Brendan Ingle, an astute and humorous Irishman who is as likely to talk to you about politics, history, or religion as boxing, has been saying for the last 13 years to "look out for the little Arab. He'll be better than the lot of them."

Ingle first spotted Hamed displaying his wares from the top deck of a bus traveling into the center of Sheffield.

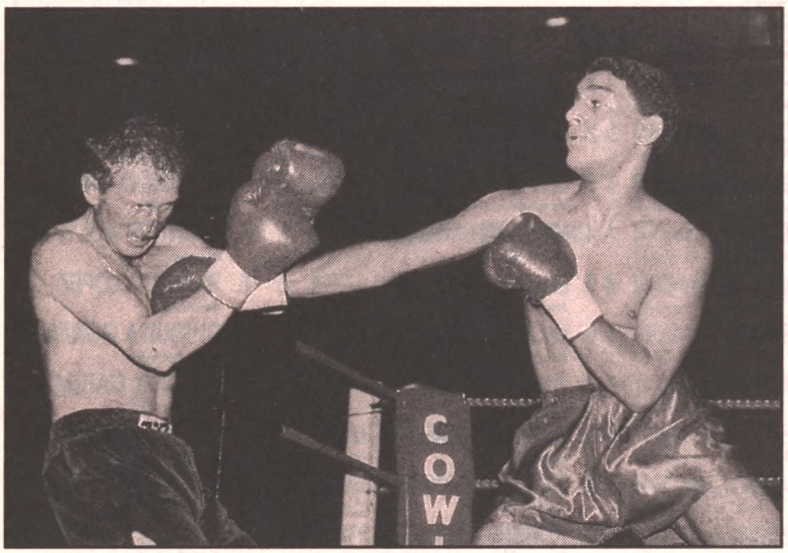
"The bus halted outside a primary school, and my attention was grabbed by a scuffle taking place along the school railings," he recalled. "This young lad of about seven, who I took to be an Asian, was battling with three older white kids and fighting them off by punching them and kicking them. He was ducking their punches, and they couldn't land a shot on him. I thought to myself, *There's a young fella who can fight.*"

Within a week Ingle encountered the "young Asian" again.

"I was walking past Sal Hamed's corner shop," he said, "when he came out and told me he was having problems with his three boys. He said, 'They are being picked on at school because they are Arabs. I want them to learn to box.' The boys appeared, and the last was the one I had seen fighting outside the school."

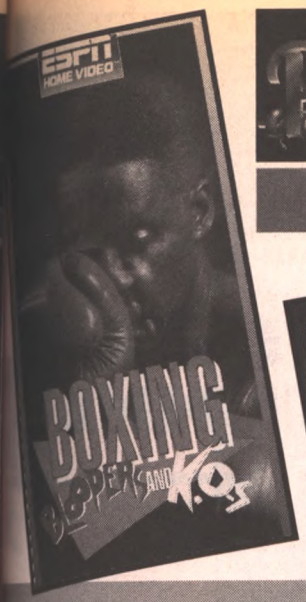
Fate had united prodigy and teacher, but there was much to be done: Hamed was only seven and weighed a mere 55 pounds. Steady progress was made during his formative boxing experiences. He gained increasing status, first among national schoolboys and then as amateur champion. By the

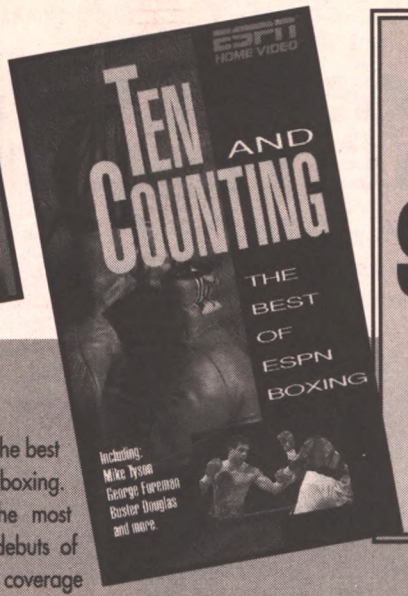
(Continued on page 57)



Hamed crushed Des Gargano in four rounds

The RING VIDEO STORE





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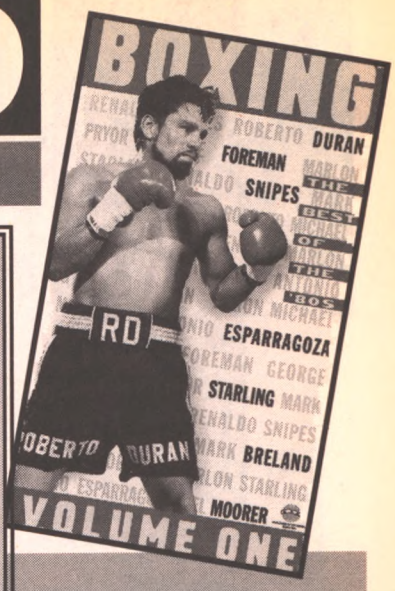

TEN AND COUNTING: THE BEST OF ESPN BOXING
This new release from ESPN captures the best moments from 10 years of ESPN boxing. You'll see outstanding matchups, the most exciting rounds, and the television debuts of Mike Tyson and Buster Douglas. Plus coverage of George Foreman's comeback, Bobby Czyz, and much more. **45 minutes**

BOXING BLOOPERS AND K.O.s
Host Al Bernstein takes you on a tour through the bizarre and hard-hitting world of boxing. This fast-paced video includes high-powered knockout action and the wackiest bloopers ever to be captured on video. Also includes interviews with Hagler, Holmes, Frazier, and Holyfield. **30 minutes**

THE LEONARD-HEARNS SAGA
You'll have a ringside seat for two of the best fights in the history of the sport as Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns go to war. Both fights (September 16, 1981, and June 12, 1989) are shown in their entirety. Included with this video is a scorecard and a special poster offer. **127 minutes**

BEST OF THE '80s—VOLUME 1
This hard-hitting video provides an in-depth look at the best peak-action footage of Roberto Duran, George Foreman, Mark Breland, Antonio Esparragoza, Michael Moorer, Marlon Starling, and Renaldo Snipes. **53 minutes**

BEST OF THE '80s—VOLUME 2
This exciting followup to Volume 1 includes ring action of Tim Witherspoon, George Foreman, Aaron Pryor, Roberto Duran, Leslie Stewart, Larry Holmes, and Bobby Czyz. **51 minutes**

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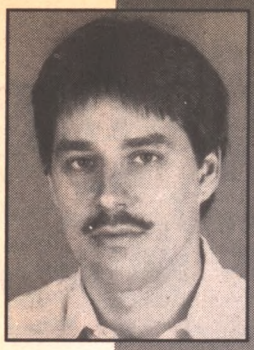
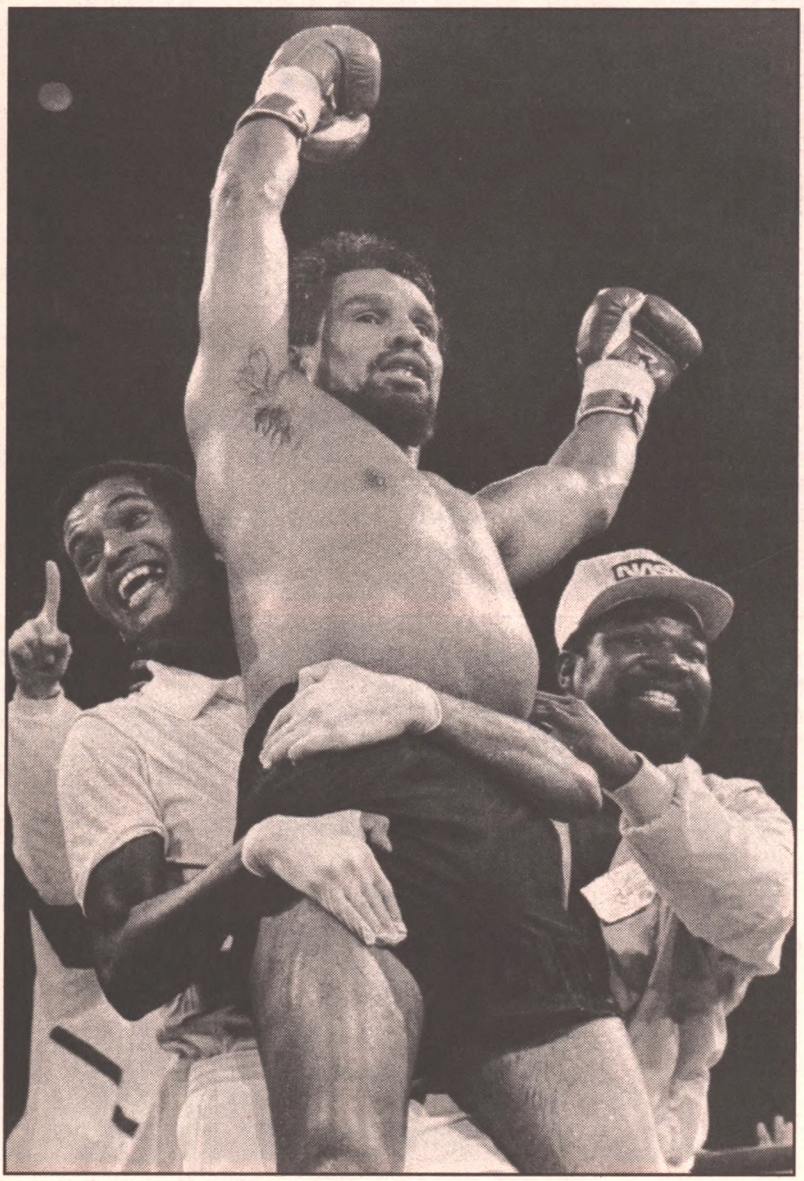


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TIME TUNNEL

If boxing is supposed to be a game for realists, why is so much about it either *unreal* or *surreal*? That no one in the Sweet Science has raised a stitched-together eyebrow over a Vinny Pazienza-Roberto Duran matchup ought to tell you something. The freak shows are not only tolerated, they're just about expected. Paz-Duran? No big deal. Just business as unusual.



Roberto Duran fights on ... and on ... and on. In a bizarre matchup, the Panamanian legend will face Vinny Pazienza in June. The way boxing's been lately, this is pretty normal.

When boxing goes a few months without commissioning Salvador Dali to paint on its canvas, people actually get nervous. No semi-annual surreal superfight? Unthinkable. Quick, we've got to come up with something. Holmes-Foreman? Stale idea. Hagler-Toney? When Marvin moved to Italy, he gave boxing the boot. Wait, we've got it: Michael Jordan fighting for the heavyweight championship of the world. Yeah, that's the ($1,000 ringside) ticket!

The Sweet Science has become a self-parody, and, excluding the Jordan challenge promoter Dan Duva proposed, Pazienza-Duran is the portion of the skit that should bring down the house. The really funny thing is, it'll probably *fill* the house instead. Think about it: overachiever vs. over-the-hill. Skin of tissue paper vs. hands of stone. Burly guy vs. surly guy. Legend in his own mind vs. legend in the minds of all. Coming to a theater of the absurd near you.

If Paz-Duran serves one useful purpose, it's to remind us how far out of touch with reality the fight game is orbiting these days. Boxing is a Strat-O-Matic game come to life. While baseball fans have to rely on computer cards and rolling dice to find out if Johnny Bench could hit Roger Clemens, boxing fans actually get to see if Larry Holmes can hit Mike Tyson, George Foreman can hit Evander Holyfield, or Sugar Ray Leonard can hit Terry Norris. There's no such thing as a generation gap anymore. Boxing shrinks it to something you couldn't slide dental floss through.

In the fight game, it ain't over until ... well, often, it's never over. I always regretted I never saw Alexis Arguello fight in person, but his current comeback could change that. Have I, as I always thought, missed out on covering Wilfredo

Photo by Marc Morrison

When columnist Ryan joined the boxing beat in 1983, he never imagined he'd cover a bout involving former heavyweight champion George Foreman, pictured with Alex Stewart, whom Big George outpointed in 1992. In addition to Foreman, Larry Holmes is still around, and might Alexis Argüello be next?

Gomez, or is his sequel just around the neutral corner? What about Eusebio Pedroza? Aaron Pryor? *Jake LaMotta*?

When I first covered boxing, in 1983, Leonard was retired and still receiving congratulations for putting his eyesight ahead of his ego gratification, Foreman was preaching in Texas and nearly impossible to locate if you were a journalist, and Gerry Cooney was off feeling sorry for himself. Over the next 10 years, I would sit in the press section *and* in disbelief as Leonard beat Hagler, Foreman fought for the heavyweight championship, and *Foreman met Cooney*. Almost as amazing, fights that were being talked about in '83, like Ray Mancini-Hector Camacho, would take place not months, but years after being first proposed.

I still wouldn't be willing to bet anything of value that we've absolutely, positively seen the last of Leonard, Cooney, and Mancini in short pants. It may not be likely, but so much that happens in boxing starts out as unlikely, doesn't it?

Sadly, how long Duran keeps wearing the short pants in his family probably has little to do with how he'll fare against Pazienza. The guy just can't ever locate the exit door. One senses Duran, who hasn't defeated a quality foe since he upset Iran Barkley five years ago, is chuckling to himself as he signs another paycheck, fills another arena full of blind loyalists, and lugs into the ring with him the fragments of what was once a remarkable repertoire of skills.

As for Paz, he should be fighting Gerald McClellan, Roy Jones, or John David Jackson for a title, not rattling dinosaur bones like he's an archaeologist. I believe "The Pazmanian Devil" has firmly convinced himself that a win over a Duran of any age is a real stop-the-presses accomplishment.

Pazienza deserves an awful lot of credit for his resiliency. Since we dismissed him as used-up following a loss to Loreto Garza at junior welterweight in 1990, he has won a junior middleweight crown, survived a harrowing car accident, and made an incredible comeback from a broken neck. He suffers, however, from a distorted view of how to achieve credibility. He hasn't met a challenging opponent since the accident, and even a win over a shot Duran won't tell us anything about how he rates with the top middleweights of today.

If you're looking forward to Paz-Duran, well, it's your time and money. Me, I'm looking forward to seeing how boxing is going to top this evening of foolishness. Trust me, though, it will find a way. It always does.

As yesterday's heroes continue to wander the boxing landscape like prehistoric creatures in *Jurassic Park*, I'm struck by just how closely boxing resembles an obscure TV show that used to fascinate me as a kid growing up in the '60s. It was called *The Time Tunnel*, and it lasted on ABC only for a year. (Don't be surprised if, like bell-bottom pants, theater showings of *Midnight Cowboy*, *Damn Yankees* on Broadway, and damn boxers all over the place, it, too, makes a comeback someday.) The plots revolved around two modern-day scientists who built an enormous tunnel that would take them to different eras in history.

Naturally, something went wrong, and the scientists journeyed from one moment in time to another, never able to return home. One week they'd be at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack, and the next week they'd be trying to save Abraham Lincoln from assassination. The next episode would put them on the deck of the Titanic as it headed toward an iceberg, and the one after that would trap them at The Alamo.

Boxing has sucked all of us into a truly bizarre time tunnel, and the scariest part is there doesn't seem to be any light at the end of it. In one episode, Roberto Duran and Vinny Pazienza are squaring off in a fight that is a titanic joke, and in the next episode—who knows?—something even weirder just might headline at The Alamodome. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ TEST

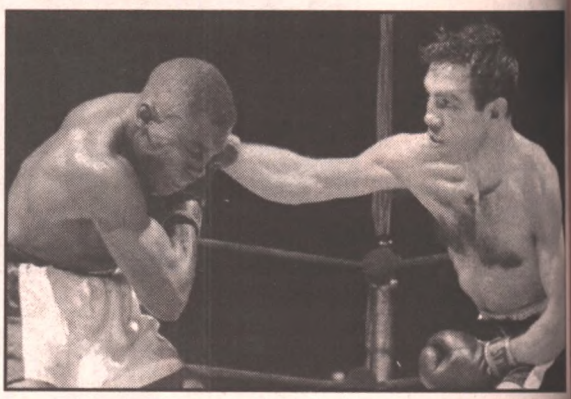
Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: ONE-HIT WONDERS

(Champions Who Failed To Make One Successful Defense)

1

This lightweight from Brooklyn lost the world title to the fighter he had dethroned. Hint: This photo was taken during their first title fight.

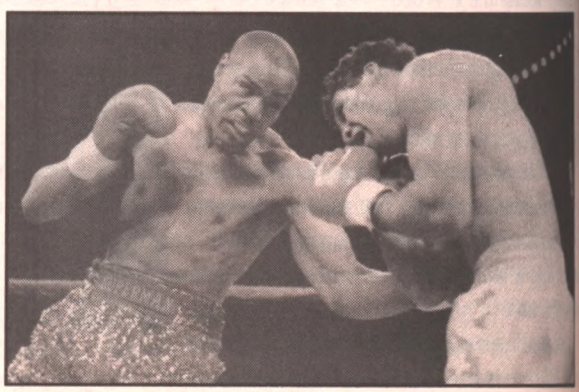


2

Three fights after knocking out Tom Baker (pictured), this junior welterweight won the world title at Madison Square Garden.

3

The real Superman would have made at least one successful defense. This welterweight, shown vs. Nick Rupa, won the title from one Olympic gold medalist and lost it to another.



TOUR BOXING IQ

4

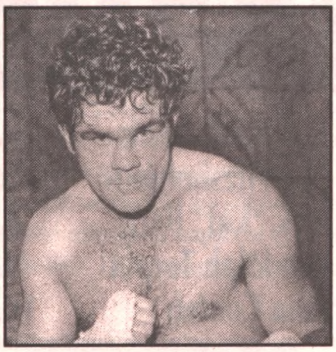
his hard-punching Brooklyn middleweight
on and lost the title to the same fighter—
d lost twice to Billy Conn in between.

5

The first IBF lightweight champion, this Philadelphian reigned for only 10 weeks. No, his nickname wasn't "White Lightning."

6

One of the toughest one-hit wonders, this light heavyweight from across the and lost the world title in his last fight.



7

Buster Douglas wasn't the only one-hit wonder at heavyweight. This Irishman lost the title in his first defense, but at least he was beaten by an all-time great.

8

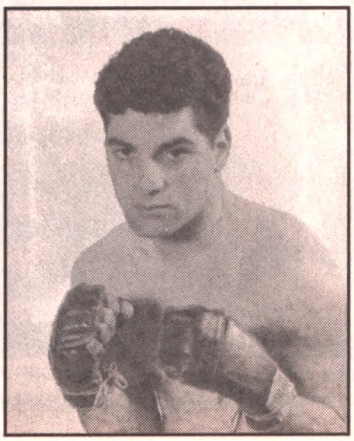
South Africa has produced several worthy world champions. This lightweight, who remains active, hopes to regain the title in the near-future.

9

Little more than a rugged clubfighter, this welterweight dethroned a legend, then lost the rematch six months later.

10

In the '50s, this New Englander became the first junior lightweight champion in nine years. He lost the title to one of the division's legendary champs.

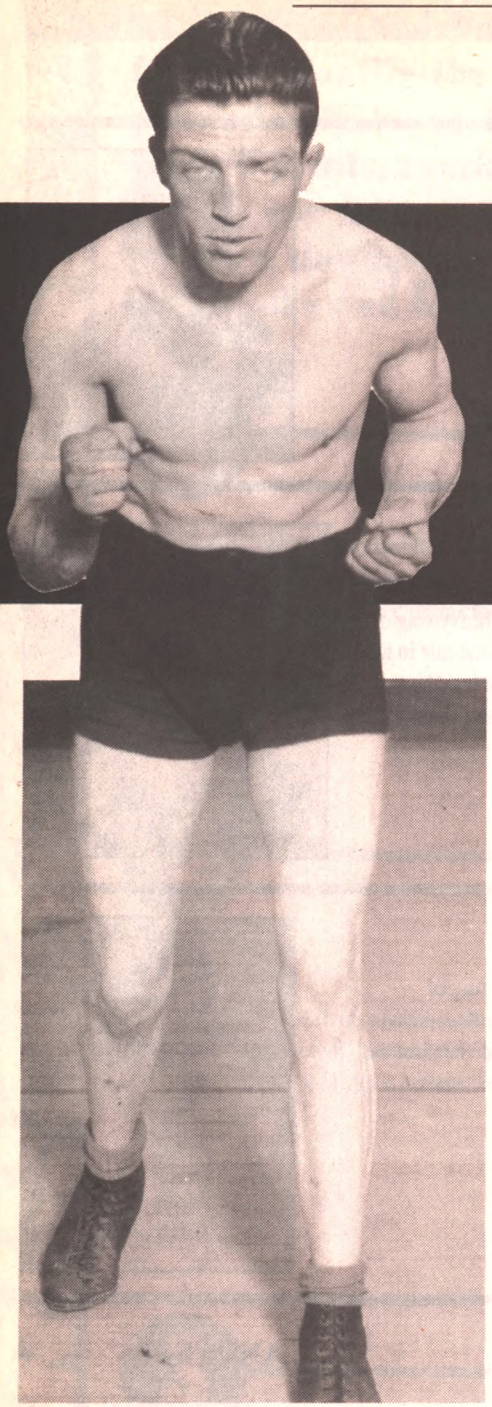


ANSWERS:

1) Paddy DeMarco;
2) Lonnie Smith;
3) Aaron Davis;
4) Solly Krieger;
5) Charlie "Choo Choo" Brown;
6) Freddie Mills;
7) Jimmy Braddock;
8) Dingaan Thobela;
9) Billy Backus;
10) Harold Gomes

The Best Of A Nation

The All-Time Top 10 Of England

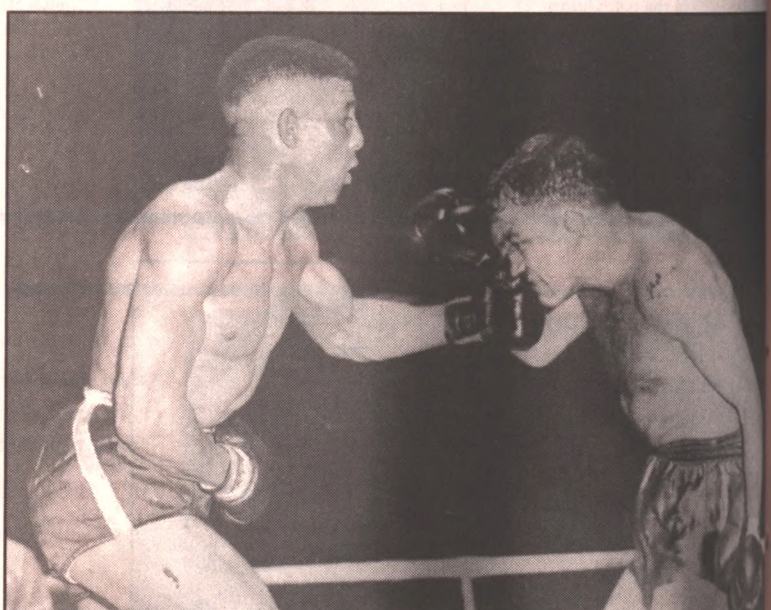


Welterweight legend Ted "Kid" Lewis

1. Ted "Kid" Lewis
2. Bob Fitzsimmons
3. Jack "Kid" Berg
4. Randolph Turpin
5. John Conteh
6. Terry Downes
7. Alan Minter
8. Len Harvey
9. Lennox Lewis
10. Peter Kane

By Brian Doogan

• **Ted "Kid" Lewis** was a virtuoso performer and an innovator of combination punchi British and European champion at featherweight, welterweight, and middleweight, he two annexed the world 147-pound crown, dethroning arch-rival Jack Britton in 1915 and again 1917. He even fought for the world light heavyweight title, losing to Georges Carpentier. He e ished the challenge of bigger men and was England's most successful boxer in American rings.



Randolph Turpin batters the bloody face of Charley Humez during their 1953 battle for t European middleweight crown. Turpin won on points over 15 rounds.

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, THE RING has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.

...ior welterweight champion Jack ...d" Berg

• **Bob Fitzsimmons** was boxing's first triple-crown champion. He won the world middleweight crown in 1891, stopping Jack Dempsey "The Nonpareil"; the heavyweight title in 1897, halting Jim Corbett with his famed solar plexus punch; and the light heavyweight title in 1903, outpointing George Gardner at age 40. For a man with his frame, he possessed phenomenal power.

• **Jack "Kid" Berg** was a wunderkind who suffered burnout long before it became a popular affliction. Nicknamed "The ...lechapel Whirlwind," he turned pro at age 14, and as his nickname sug...s, his perpetual punching became his trademark. He won the world junior ...elterweight title by kayoing Mushy Callahan in 1930, and proved classy ...ough to defeat Billy Petrolle, Kid Chocolate (twice), and Tony Canzoneri.

• **Randolph Turpin** became world middleweight champion in 1951 by ...pointing the peerless Sugar Ray Robinson. That accomplishment alone ...rns him a place here. He was British champion at age 22, European title-...lder four months later, and world champion five months after that. He lost ...s rematch with Robinson, and, after Sugar Ray retired, was outpointed by ...bby Olson in a battle for the vacant title. In 1966, Turpin committed sui...de at age 37.

...opular middleweight Terry Downes (left) slugs it out with world champion ...Paul Pender during their title fight in July 1961. Downes, who won by ninth-...round kayo, also boasted wins over Joey Giardello and Sugar Ray Robinson.

• **John Conteh** was a well-rounded fighter with explosive potential. He became European light heavyweight champion after only 19 fights, and then, in a compelling contest, defeated Chris Finnegan for British and Commonwealth honors. The popular 175-pounder claimed the vacant WBC title by decisioning Jorge Ahumada in 1974. He made three defenses before vacating. Courageous, but failed challenges against Mate Parlov and Matthew Saad Muhammad prompted his retirement.

• **Terry Downes** was a fast-talking, fast-punching Londoner who twice won the British title, and in 1961 decisioned Paul Pender for the world middleweight title. He lost to Pender in his first defense, then, in 1964, challenged light heavyweight champion Willie Pastrano. Ahead on points, he was the victim of a controversial referee's stoppage in round 11. He also defeated Joey Giardello and a faded Sugar Ray Robinson.

John Conteh jabs at former light heavyweight champion Vicente Rondon en route to a ninth-round TKO victory in 1973. One year later, Conteh was WBC champion, and he made three defenses before vacating the title.

• **Alan Minter** compensated for physical inadequacies, including tissue-thin skin, with a firm punch and a fierce will to win. He engaged in a pulsating three-fight series with Kevin Finnegan, winning all three bouts. After capturing and then relinquishing the European title, he dethroned world champion Vito Antuofermo on points in 1980. He won the rematch, but met his nemesis in fellow southpaw Marvin Hagler, who destroyed him in three rounds.

• **Len Harvey** was a tremendous boxer, but lacked a substantial punch. Cool under pressure, he was arguably the finest strategist England has ever produced. His tactical awareness brought him British and Empire titles at middleweight, light heavyweight, and heavyweight. He also fought to a draw for the British welter title. He failed in his first try at the world title, losing to John Henry Lewis in 1936. But after Lewis' retirement, he outpointed Jock McAvoy to capture the British version of the world title. He was beaten in his first defense by Freddie Mills.

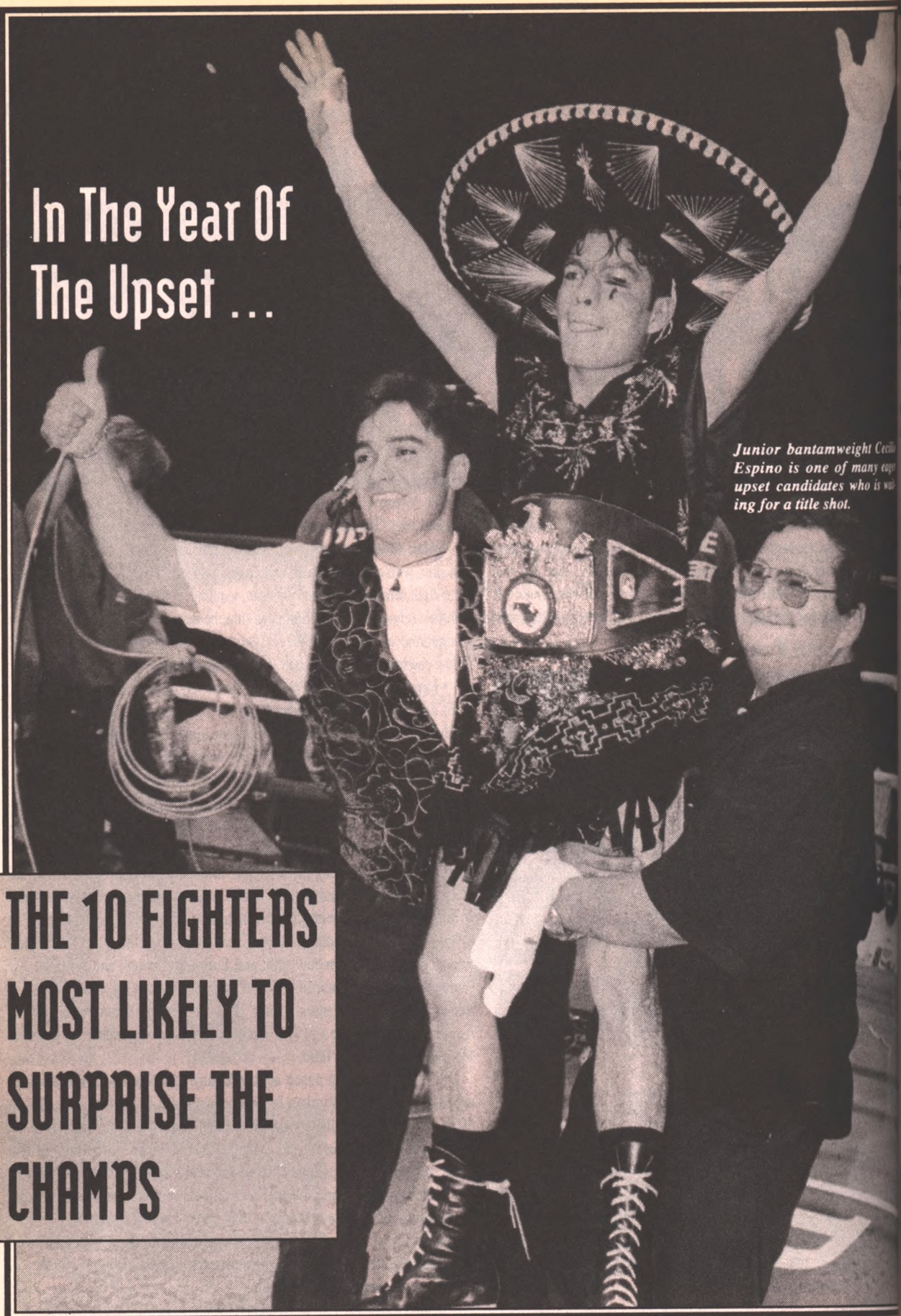
• **Lennox Lewis** may never endear himself to British fight fans as did Henry Cooper and Frank Bruno, but he is unquestionably Britain's finest-ever heavyweight. Fighting for Canada, he won a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics, stopping Riddick Bowe in the final match. As a pro, he quickly garnered British, Commonwealth, and European honors, and sensationally stopped Razor Ruddock in 1992, which retrospectively earned him the vacant WBC title. Defenses against Tony Tucker and Bruno have lowered his stock. His ultimate test will likely be a unification match vs. Evander Holyfield sometime in 1995.

• **Peter Kane** could punch as hard as any flyweight, and maintained an aggressive attack that resulted in 33 stoppage wins in his first 41 fights. In 1937, at age 19, he challenged the great Benny Lynch and was stopped in the 13th round. He subsequently decisioned Jackie Jurich for the vacant title and made one defense, a first-round loss to Scotland's Jackie Paterson. His career was interrupted by World War II, but in 1947, he bounced back to win the European bantamweight title despite only partial sight in his left eye.

Note: Lloyd Honeyghan and Maurice Hope, both of whom enjoyed great success in British rings, were omitted because they were born in Jamaica and Antigua, respectively. ■

Brian Doogan is THE RING'S correspondent in the United Kingdom.

In The Year Of The Upset ...



Junior bantamweight Cecilio Espino is one of many eager upset candidates who is waiting for a title shot.

THE 10 FIGHTERS MOST LIKELY TO SURPRISE THE CHAMPS

y Steve **Farhood**

Terry Norris—*down!*
Julio Cesar Chavez—*down!*
Michael Carbajal—*down!*
Michael Nunn—*down!*

The upsets have been coming at an upsetting rate. Clearly, no one is safe. Pernell Whitaker better watch his sweet pea. And James Toney, too. Who knows who might be lurking in the shadows, waiting for that elusive shot at the title. And who knows what might happen when that try finally comes.

If you're looking for a common thread, we can find only one: Most of the upset winners have been cagey veterans who, for one reason or another, had been dismissed. "When they mistake experience for wear and tear," 31-year-old junior lightweight contender Calvin Grove told THE RING, "I love it. I know I have 'em right where I want 'em."

Consider:

• Simon Brown, who knocked out Norris, had been fighting world-class competition for 10 years. But his career had been interrupted by injuries, and after a disappointing performance against Buddy McGirt in November '91, he was deemed washed-up.

• Frankie Randall, who floored and outpointed Chavez, had more than 70 bouts worth of experience and hadn't lost in more than six years. But he had been beating nobodies on those endless Don King undercards. And besides, Pernell Whitaker aside, did it really matter who Chavez fought?

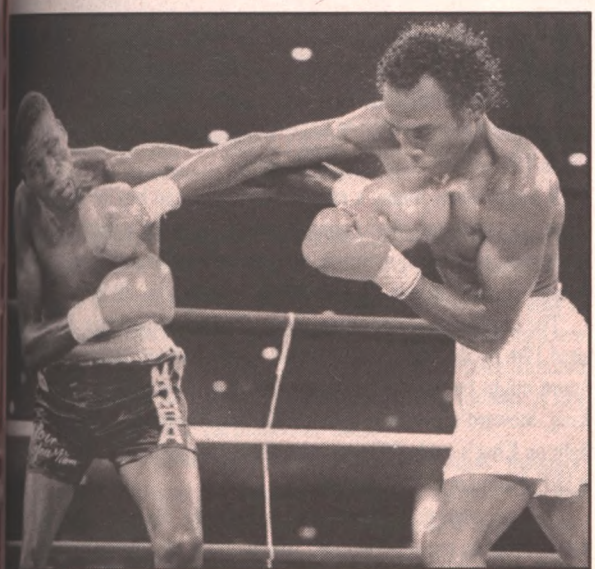
• Steve Little, who dropped and decisioned Nunn, had pulled off enough upsets to hang around the top 10 for seven years. But he had suffered 13 losses, and hadn't fought in 14 months. He was given little chance.

Grove sounds like a crusty trainer from the '50s when he says, "There's no substitute for experience." But the slew of recent upsets have reinforced that axiom. Who, then, are the prime candidates to keep the streak going? There are 10 veterans who, if given the opportunity, just might remind us how much they've learned. (Listed in no particular order, and with no regard to weight class.)

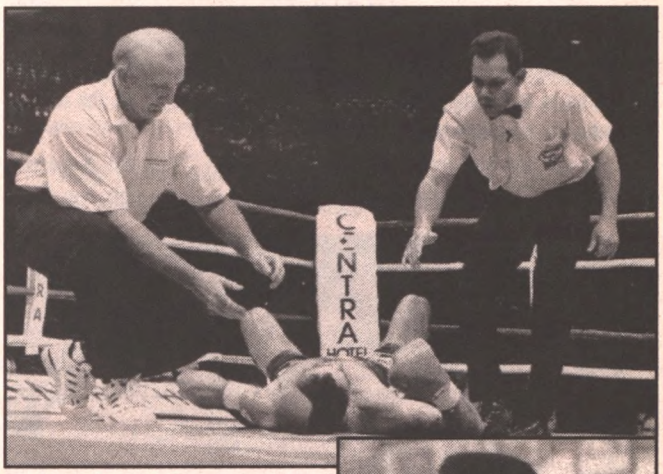
Roger Mayweather (junior welterweight): The temptation is to dismiss Mayweather, 47-10 (29), as yesterday's fighter. After all, the 32-year-old former two-division champion was kayoed by Rafael Pineda in 1991, outpointed by Fidel Avendano in '92, and decisioned by Zack Padilla and Darryll Tyson in '93. But every time "The Black Mamba" seems ready for trialhorse status, he rebounds with a surprise victory. Last July, that win came against young contender Carl Griffith. If he's given one more shot, maybe, just maybe ...

"He's still a slick, wily veteran," says Top Rank's Ron Katz, who has made several of Mayweather's matches. "He has some decent power left and some decent reflexes. And he still has decent legs, but he's not a gym rat, so it all depends on how hard he trains. If he shows up 100 percent, with the caliber of fighter today, he can still beat, say, [IBF champion] Jake Rodriguez."

It's been more than 10 years since Mayweather won the WBA junior lightweight title by knocking out Sammy Serrano. He's been a poor man's Thomas Hearns, ending fights with big right hands or barely surviving phone booth wars with seemingly inferior opposition. And, like Hearns, he fights on, struggling on shaky legs. He's not going to beat Pernell Whitaker or Julio Cesar Chavez, but there are other targets, and as his nickname suggests, Mayweather can strike suddenly.



In June 1988, Roger Mayweather outpointed Harold Brazier. Both veterans remain active and hope to secure one last shot at the world title.



Last June, Calvin Grove traveled to Australia and kayoed national hero Jeff Fenech with one punch. That unexpected victory hasn't led to a try at the junior lightweight world title.

Calvin Grove (junior lightweight): Grove, 31, isn't likely to sneak up on anybody; since losing to Bryant Paden in October 1991, he's been among the hottest 130-pounders in boxing. He's upset Regilio Tuur and Jeff Fenech (a one-punch kayo in Australia), outpointed Troy Dorsey and young contender Pete Taliaferro, and lost a close decision to WBC champion Azumah Nelson. Another title try isn't likely to materialize, however, until he becomes a mandatory challenger. (Grove is rated second by the IBF and third by the WBC.)

"I was promised a shot at Oscar De La Hoya," he said, "but when I asked [matchmaker] Ron Katz, he said, 'Do you want me to lose my job? You'll kill him.'"

Grove, 45-5 (17), and manager Bob Spagnola are looking for a promoter. "Silky Smooth" is the type of fighter champions and contenders choose to ignore; he's technically proficient, and he boxes carefully while using the ring. He can only hope one of the titlists mistakes him for an aging veteran.

"You've never seen me get beat up," he says. "I started boxing late, at age 16, and I still haven't had 100 fights combined, amateur and pro. I still envision myself as young."

Harold Brazier (welterweight): The 38-year-old Brazier is the Saoul Mamby of the '90s. Brazier's last try at the world title came five years ago, but he continues to befuddle younger contenders, most recently Larry Barnes and Kevin Pompey, whom he kayoed in January. Now he's aiming for IBF 147-pound champion Felix Trinidad, who's all of 21.

"He's well-schooled and a good technician," Brazier said of Trinidad, "but when you get caught up in knocking guys out and forget your boxing ..."

Brazier, 90-14-1 (59), remains one of the game's soundest fighters, a classic counterpuncher who can brawl without ignoring defense. Perhaps his best attribute, however, is his attitude: He's always in shape, and whenever a fighter in his division secures a try at a world title, he trains as if it's his opportunity—in case there's a pullout and a substitute is needed.

Brazier says that while he's nearing 40, the recent upsets have provided added motivation: "I'm like an 80-year-old trainer in a 20-year-old body."

Tony Tubbs (heavyweight): No, we're not kidding. Granted, Tubbs can be painful to watch—his February points win over Bigfoot Martin was as exciting as watching someone give blood. But even at 36, the former WBA champion is highly skilled.

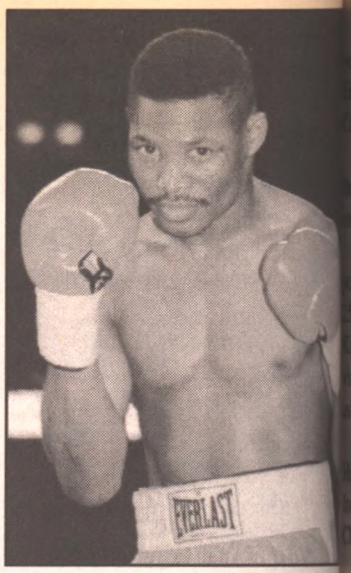
"He's still the best technical boxer active today," says Bill Kozerski, who promotes Tubbs. "Nobody with something to lose will fight him, from

Tony Tubbs seems to fight to the level of his opposition. In 1991, he nearly upset future heavyweight champion Riddick Bowe. As has always been the case, he's tough to fight, and tougher to watch.

Samson Po'uha, who pulled out of a fight, to Riddick Bowe, who could have fought Tubbs [in his comeback bout], but has chosen Francois Botha instead, to Jeremy Williams, who pulled out after we accepted him."

Kozerski acknowledges Tubbs doesn't always give a maximum effort. "He fights to the level of his opposition," he says. This was evident in April 1991, when Tubbs lost a close decision to then-unbeaten contender Bowe, and in December, when the unrated Californian strung together four wins to capture "The People's Choice World Heavyweight Superfights" one-night tournament.

It's a longshot that Tubbs, 38-5 (20), will ever get another shot at the world title. "But he knows in his heart he can still win it," says Kozerski. "That's what drives him, that's why he takes all the fights he's offered."



Former junior featherweight champion Julio Gervacio is nearing a try at the WBC 122-pound crown. The Dominican has been winning impressively on Don King's undercards.

Julio Gervacio (junior featherweight): It was almost seven ye that Gervacio, then an unbeaten contender, shocked defending WB pound champion Louie Espinoza. Gervacio kept the title for all o months, lost twice in 1989, then took off all of 1990 and '91. N Puerto Rico-based Dominican is making another run at the title; figh obscurity on Don King's undercards, he's won 10 straight and has number one in the WBC rankings. It doesn't hurt that he's manag Yamil Chade, who's tight with WBC President Jose Sulaiman. Gervacio is only 26.

"I would say Gervacio beats [WBC champion] Tracy Patterson," Peyton Sher, who makes matches for King. "Up until eight months was lost in the shuffle. But he's a good puncher with a good style, an won't find him in a bad fight. At this point, I don't think he'd truly be prise."

Gervacio, 30-3-2 (23), might not have to dethrone Patterson, who rise in weight after his upcoming defense against Richard Duran. If the case, Gervacio will probably clash with 36-year-old former two-d champion Daniel Zaragoza for the vacant title. That's certainly a fi can win.

Anthony Jones (welterweight): Jones' nickname is "Baby," b Kronk 147-pounder is 27, and he's already had two chances at the title. Those fights. vs. Edwin Rosario and Pernell Whitaker, came at weight, and he says, "Both times I weakened myself coming down 155 to 135—it was so physically draining."

It might seem Jones, a switch-hitter who can box or rumble at range, lacks the muscle to compete with the game's best welters. In November, he tackled unbeaten powerpuncher Vince Phillips and w seventh-round stoppage. "It proved," he said, "I was still here."

The crossroads victory didn't help all that much; Jones, 33-5-1 C rated 19th by the WBC and not at all by the IBF and WBA. The key future might be whether manager Emanuel Steward can sell him to King. Steward's two best fighters, Thomas Hearns and Gerald McC fight on King's cards. If Jones joins them, he might be able to secure at IBF champion Felix Trinidad.

"Not too many guys get a third shot," he said. "But given ample time pare, I could be one of those guys who pulls off the upset. I'm a much fighter now, and much smarter, too. The experience tells in the later ro You see experienced guys kick it into an extra gear when they have to."

Melchor Cob Castro (junior flyweight): If you follow the lighter ...ghts, you know all about Michael Carbajal and Chiquita Gonzalez, and ... Griffin and Ricardo Lopez, too. But you've probably forgotten about ...em.

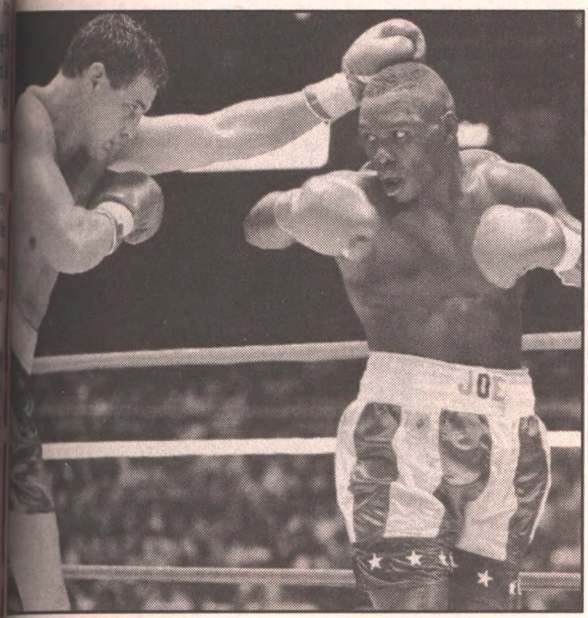
"It's a very talented division, but on a good night, he could beat any of ... *including* Carbajal and Chiquita," said Bruce Williams, THE RING's ...respondent for Mexico.

Having lost title fights to Gonzalez in 1991 and '92, former WBC 108-...d champion Castro, 40-4-4 (17), could have faded away. But he's only ...and three consecutive victories against quality opposition (Bong Jun ...n, Jorge Luis Roman, and Domingo Sosa) have reestablished him as a ...ble contender; he's rated in the top 10 by all three organizations, as well ... THE RING.

Castro is a quick 5'2" southpaw who uses the ring and piles up points. ...s trained by the masterful Nacho Beristain, who also handles Gonzalez. ...preparing for Gonzalez' rematch with Carbajal, Beristain convinced ...quita to box more. Now he's trying to convince Castro to *fight* more.

"They know that he has to fight aggressively or he'll never get another ...," said John Beyrooty, publicist for Forum Boxing.

If that shot comes, Castro just might make sure you remember him.



When Robert "Little Joe" Daniels defended the WBA cruiserweight title ...ainst Craig Bodzianowski in 1990, his future seemed limitless. But after ...sing to Bobby Czyz, he's been a low-profile contender.

Robert Daniels (cruiserweight): Since losing the WBA 190-pound title ...o Bobby Czyz in March 1991, "Little Joe" has made it easy for us to forget ...bout him. After the Czyz fight, he took 17 months off, largely because of ...managerial problems. Since returning, he's been busy, winning six in a row ...against so-what opposition. He's rated in the top 10 of all three alphabet ...organizations, but doesn't have a big-time promoter pushing for him. A title ...ight seems unlikely, at least in the immediate future.

"His attitude is very good," says Delroy Ruddock, Daniels' manager. "As a former world champion, he takes something into the ring with him that another fighter doesn't have. He learned a lot the first time around. What he really wants is another shot at Czyz, whether it's for a title or not."

At 25, Daniels, 25-2-1 (22), is a young veteran. He turned pro in 1984 at age 15 (is that legal?) and has developed into a well-rounded fighter. Remember, at cruiserweight, it doesn't take much to crash the party. But the big names are Hearns and Czyz and Cole and Norris, and whether the low-profile Daniels can secure a try at the title remains problematic.

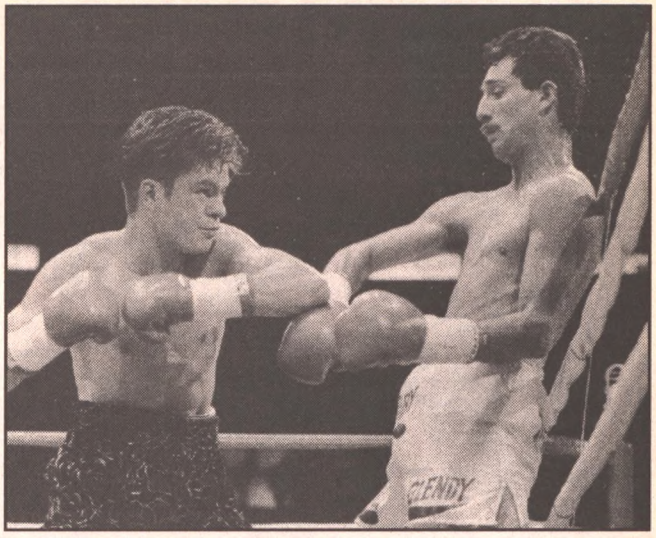


Photo by Photography Ink

Cecilio Espino's 1992 war with Pepillo Valdez was a bloody classic. Junior bantamweight Espino likes to brawl, often ignoring defense in the process.

Cecilio Espino (junior bantamweight): Espino is only 23, but for a Mexican fighter, that can be middle-aged. He turned pro as a flyweight, and in 1992 enjoyed an action-packed reign as NABF bantamweight titlist. (His June '92 victory over countryman Pepillo Valdez remains one of the best fights ever held at the Great Western Forum.) However, a try at the world title never came. He's better off at junior bantam, assuming he can continue to make the weight.

"Espino has two problems," Beyrooty said. "First, he's a slow, slow starter. His last fight, I told him, 'You're fighting at 7:30,' even though his bout was scheduled for eight. Second, he starts slow defensively—and gets slower. But he could still win a world title. He punches so hard and he's got so much guts."

Espino, 27-3-1 (23), is a relative unknown, at least compared to most of our other entries. In fact, he's ranked only by the WBC, who lists him seventh. But he's worth watching, the kind of fighter who could lose when you expect him to win, and win when you expect him to lose. Count on one thing: He'll always be exciting.

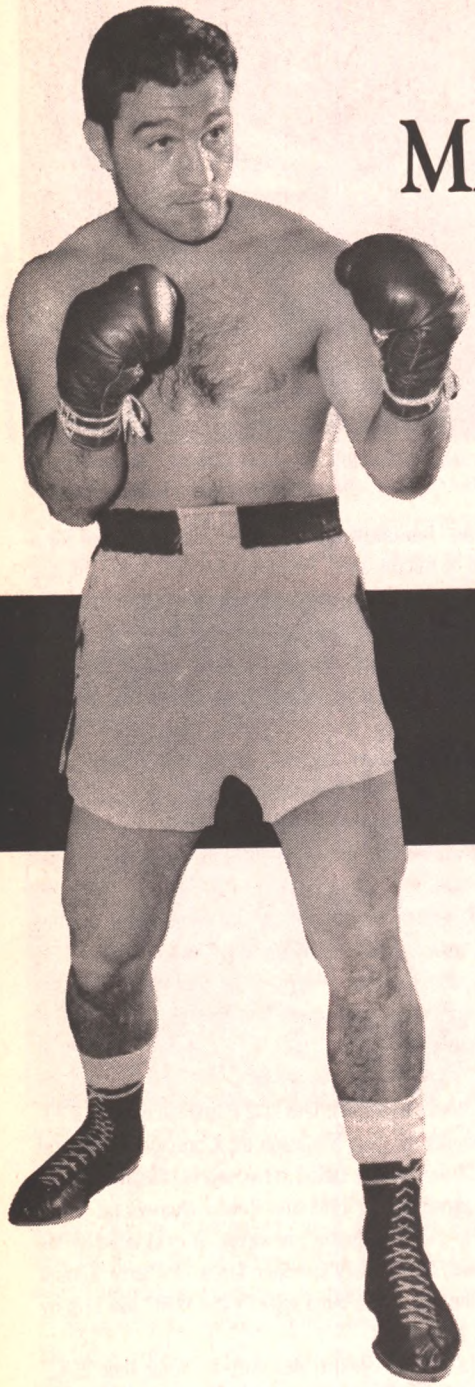
Vincenzo Belcastro (bantamweight): Our sole European entry is a 33-year-old veteran who remains the best bantie on the Continent. A natural 115-pounder, Belcastro, 28-6-3 (4), has failed in two world title tries, losing to Jose Sanabria (at bantamweight) in 1988 and Robert Quiroga (at junior bantamweight) in 1991. He's still dangerous, however, as evidenced by his recent victory over Scotland's previously unbeaten Drew Docherty. Should he secure one final try at the title—he's rated sixth by the WBC and 11th by the WBA—he'll be a live underdog.

"We've talked about [a defense against] Belcastro for some time now," said Bob Spagnola, manager of IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales. "He's not any kind of puncher, but I've never seen him hurt, and he's very, very busy. He's always in controversial decisions, and he could sneak up on somebody."

One negative: There's been a recent reduction of big-time boxing in Italy. Belcastro rarely fights on the road, and if he has to pack his bags, his chances of winning a world title will suffer. ■

WHAT IF...

ROCKY MARCIANO



VERSUS

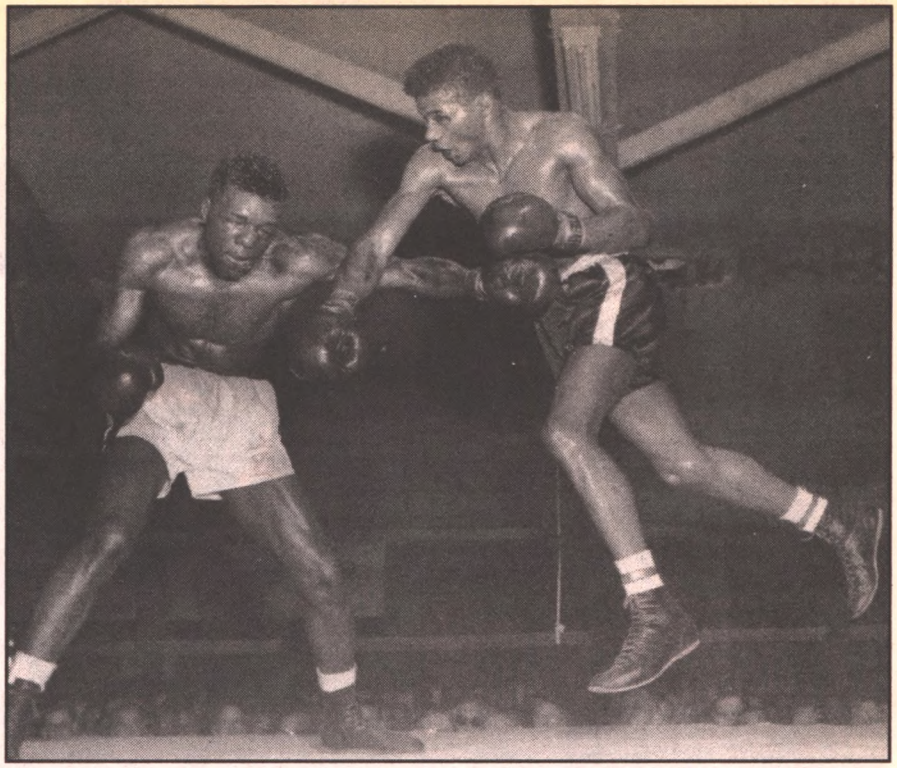
FLOYD PATTERSON

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that happens, we're left with our imaginations, which makes for never-ending conjecture and delightful waste.

With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's foremost computer programmer, and TKO Professional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, The RING has once again decided to play matchmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "THE RING All-Time Computer Tournament.")

The computer program runs in compiled basic and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two-dozen routines and subroutines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given bout.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of dream matchups, fights that could have taken place but never did. His program considers more than 100 variables, and he runs the matchups through his computer 20 times each. What if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? What if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.



Patterson's technique was hardly textbook, as evidenced by his 1954 bout vs. Wes Bascom. But the Olympic gold medalist was extremely quick and dangerous with both hands.

Rocky and his father, Piero Marchegiano, read all about it after the heavyweight champion's kayo of Archie Moore. What might have happened had the defense against Moore not been The Rock's last fight?

THE WAY IT WAS

On April 27, 1956, at the Lexington Hotel in New York City, Rocky Marciano saddened the boxing community by announcing his retirement. He became only the second man in heavyweight history to leave the ring with his undefeated record intact. (Jim Jeffries was the other, but five years after retiring, he made a disastrous one-fight comeback.) Questions about the condition of Marciano's back and the lack of appealing competition were factored into his decision. Moreover, the thrifty Marciano was financially secure for life.

The top contenders were a mix of nondescript veterans and untested young lions. Bob Baker was a safety-first fighter with no gate appeal; Bob Satterfield was exciting, but Marciano's chin would have negated the challenger's power, and Satterfield's inability to take a punch would have spelled an early stoppage. Cuban banger Nino Valdes was in decline, and Marciano had already beaten Archie Moore. The young guys like Eddie Machen were in the process of building reputations and were hesitant to risk all against a fighter of Marciano's caliber. Only budding star Floyd Patterson, a skillful boxer with a solid punch, stood out as a possible challenger.

Patterson would have been an intriguing opponent for Marciano. He had enough of a punch to gain the champion's respect, the hand and foot speed to outbox the bull-like and aging Marciano, and the name recognition to guarantee a decent payday. Patterson had only one blemish on his record, a highly disputed decision loss to Joey Maxim. (Eleven of 12 ringside writers scored for Patterson.) The problem with making Marciano-Patterson didn't involve the fighters. The problem was Patterson's manager, Cus D'Amato.

D'Amato was a renegade, or at least liked to act like one. The enmity between the manager and boxing czar Jim Norris, head of the octopus-like IBC, made sports page headlines almost as often as the results of Patterson's fights. To further complicate matters, Al Weill, Marciano's manager, had a history with Norris, having worked as the IBC's matchmaker from 1949 to 1952.

Politics aside, the wily D'Amato wasn't in a hurry to throw the 21-year-old Patterson in against the still-dangerous Marciano. All he had to do was bide his time. Marciano would either retire or his punch and reflexes would continue to erode to a point where Patterson's chances of victory would be overwhelming. D'Amato's patience paid off. When Marciano decided to

(Continued on page 58)

LARRY DONALD OUTPOINTS JEREMY WILLIAMS

If These Are The Heavyweights Of The Future ... *Ugh!*

Photos by Nasser Khan/Fightmat

By Nigel Collins

One of the best things about being a boxing fan is the rush you get when a new heavyweight sensation explodes upon the scene. Remember what it was like when Joe Frazier, Muhammad Ali, and Mike Tyson first began to create a buzz? You knew right from the get-go they were going be special. To a lesser degree, Larry Holmes, Evander Holyfield, and Riddick Bowe created similar excitement.

So you couldn't blame fans for getting their hopes up when ABC awarded a rare network date to a battle of undefeated heavyweight prospects. Larry Donald and Jeremy Williams were touted as leaders of the new generation of heavyweights, the vanguard of the future. Maybe, just maybe, the winner would emerge as the next heavyweight hero, the one who gets the adrenaline pumping and the turnstiles spinning. It didn't happen.

Donald won a 12-round majority decision in a surprisingly one-sided fight that told us much more about Williams' limitations than it did about Donald's potential. Donald came through in a pressure situation and earned the right to fight at a higher level, but he fell short of the kind of performance that announces the arrival of a heavyweight star. With expectations having so high, the entire affair left you with that is-that-all-there-is feeling.

It's not fair to compare every up-and-co heavyweight to the legends of the past, but it anyway. We're always trying to recapture magic of Ali or looking for another slugger a left hook like Smokin' Joe. If you're a pro ing young heavyweight with an eye on the comes with the territory. Donald, 27, did enough to win, but he hasn't convinced too people outside of his camp that he's the weight of the '90s.

"I agree that Donald didn't generate the

excitement that surrounds a great heavy-
ght," said ABC boxing analyst Alex Wallau.
t you can't damn everybody who doesn't
asure up to that level. Those sort of fighters
few and far between. Different fighters devel-
at different rates of speed. We did a couple of
y Riddick Bowe fights, against Tyrell Biggs
d Tony Tubbs, and he didn't spark the kind of
itement back then that he did later. Of course,
e way things have been going for Riddick late-
maybe those early performances were more
aling than we originally thought."

Going into the fight, Williams, 21, was the
re-known of the pair. His shaven skull and
ncing scowl had become familiar sights on
N and the USA Network, and he'd already
de one appearance on ABC in a similar situa-
n, impressively knocking out previously unde-
ted 1992 Olympian Danell Nicholson in two
unds last May. His association with high-pow-
ul manager Bill Cayton had helped keep his
me in the media, and Williams had done his
rt by racking up a string of knockouts.

"I was quite surprised the way things worked
t," admitted Wallau. "I had never sat down and
oked to Donald until the day before the fight. I
d read stories about him, especially when he
s at the Barcelona Olympics. [Donald was out-
inted by eventual gold medalist Roberto
balado.] He seemed like a glib guy with an effu-
ve personality ... the bad Ali imitation. But
en I talked to him prior to the Williams fight,
e was monosyllabic, apparently totally intimi-
ted. Williams, on the other hand, was relaxed
d a real quote machine. By the way they were
ting, I figured Donald would freeze up."

Once Williams sampled Donald's right hand
the second round, however, it was he who
nt into a shell. The deciding moment came
rly in the round, a split second after a quick jab
itiated a classic one-two. Williams' legs
vered as the shot landed, and a gasp went up
m the crowd at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.
ey, wasn't it the *other* guy who was supposed
be the big puncher?

Though the Cincinnati boxer failed to finish
e job, he rattled Williams again in the fourth,
rcing the 2-1 favorite to grab and hold. You
uld see the ambition draining out of Williams
with every right that connected. He also had
enty of problems getting past Donald's jab, and
s his frustration mounted, he resorted to club-
ing away with rabbit punches whenever Donald
d him up on the inside.

"I counted 49 rabbit punches, and referee
chard Steele never said a word," said Donald's

(Continued on page 60)

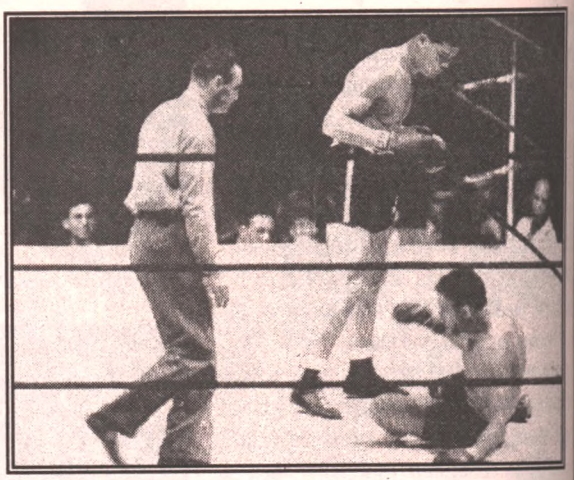
Above: After an effective display of one-punch power in the early rounds, Donald backed up the smaller Williams the rest of the way. Had Donald thrown more right hands, he might have scored a kayo. Below: As the rounds progressed, Williams displayed the wounds of war. A 2-1 favorite, the previously unbeaten Californian was tentative and ineffective. However, Donald also wasn't exactly scintillating.

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

Time CAPSULES

"CHAPPIE" CALLED IT RIGHT ON THE BUTTON

(August 17, 1936)

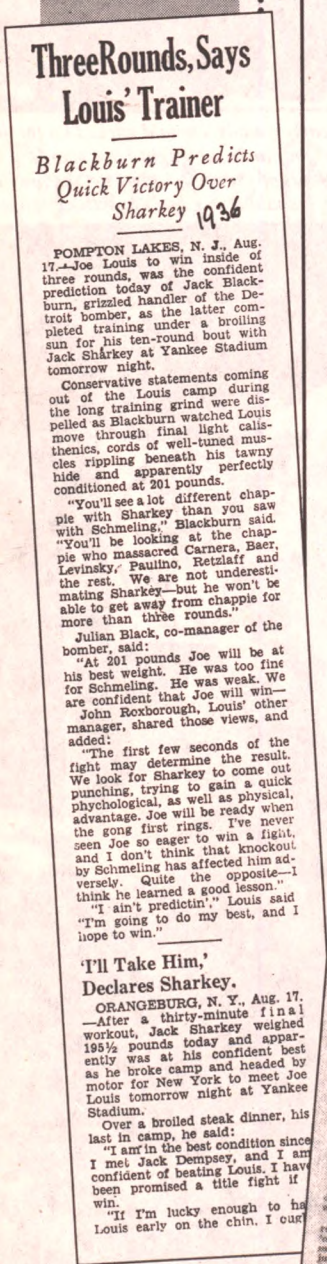


Max Schmeling shattered the myth of Joe Louis' invincibility with his brain-numbing right fist when he brutalized Joe before knocking him out in the 12th round, snapping "The Brown Bomber's" winning streak at 23. How would that devastating defeat affect Louis in his next fight, if indeed he ever climbed into the ring again? The small, select group masterminding Joe's career unanimously agreed that finding the answer to that crucial question as soon as possible was imperative. Said Joe's co-manager, Julian Black, "Nothing is more important than to restore Joe's self-confidence. Right now he's not sure whether he was cut out to be a fighter. He told me just yesterday, 'I know I can punch. But that ain't enough. Schmeling showed me that. If you can't shake off good shots, you're only half a fighter. Like a dog with two legs ... '"

It was Louis' devoted teacher, trainer, and most trusted friend and companion, Jack "Chappie" Blackburn, who soothed Joe's pain and massaged his depleted confidence with convincing tales of how every great fighter had his off-night. "None of them was great every time," Blackburn kept saying. Nobody will ever know if he really believed Louis would ever be the same after the Schmeling disaster. All Blackburn knew was that Joe's next fight would provide the answer. He also knew nothing was more crucial than finding the right opponent. It had to be a famous name, preferably a former champion. It had to be a powerpuncher, a man unimpressed by Louis' scrapbook. It had to be a man whom the public believed had the tools to duplicate the job Schmeling had done on the Bomber. And it had to be a guy whom Joe had not previously crucified. Only one man met all the qualifications: Jack Sharkey.

Exactly 60 days after the Schmeling debacle, Louis climbed into the ring at Yankee Stadium to face former heavyweight champion Sharkey. The fact that Sharkey was 12 years older than Joe, and had won only two of his last seven fights, was skillfully played down by the publicity crew. Hyped to the breaking point was the promise that the ex-champ "will be in the best shape of his career," and that Sharkey was convinced Louis "can't fight a lick and built his reputation knocking over a bunch of has-been stiffs." When asked how much time he spends in his Boston saloon, Jack quipped, "What saloon?"

Blackburn never wavered from the prediction he made the day the fight was signed: "Joe will knock out Sharkey inside three rounds." Which is exactly what happened. At the 1:02 mark of round three, referee Arthur Donovan counted out the Boston saloon-keeper. Had Louis regained his confidence? One year later, he won the heavyweight title from Jimmy Braddock, and one year after that he tasted the sweetest of revenge by knocking out Schmeling in less than one round.



Three Rounds, Says Louis' Trainer

Blackburn Predicts Quick Victory Over Sharkey 1936

POMPTON LAKES, N. J., Aug. 17.—Joe Louis to win inside of three rounds, was the confident prediction today of Jack Blackburn, grizzled handler of the Detroit bomber, as the latter completed training under a broiling sun for his ten-round bout with Jack Sharkey at Yankee Stadium tomorrow night.

Conservative statements coming out of the Louis camp during the long training grind were dispelled as Blackburn watched Louis move through final light calisthenics, cords of well-tuned muscles rippling beneath his tawny hide and apparently perfectly conditioned at 201 pounds.

"You'll see a lot different chappie with Sharkey than you saw with Schmeling," Blackburn said. "You'll be looking at the chappie who massacred Carnera, Baer, Levinsky, Paulino, Retzlaff and the rest. We are not underestimating Sharkey—but he won't be able to get away from chappie for more than three rounds."

Julian Black, co-manager of the bomber, said:

"At 201 pounds Joe will be at his best weight. He was too fine for Schmeling. He was weak. We are confident that Joe will win—"

John Roxborough, Louis' other manager, shared those views, and added:

"The first few seconds of the fight may determine the result. We look for Sharkey to come out punching, trying to gain a quick phychological, as well as physical, advantage. Joe will be ready when the gong first rings. I've never seen Joe so eager to win a fight, and I don't think that knockout by Schmeling has affected him adversely. Quite the opposite—I think he learned a good lesson."

"I ain't predictin'," Louis said "I'm going to do my best, and I hope to win."

'I'll Take Him,' Declares Sharkey.

ORANGEBURG, N. Y., Aug. 17.—After a thirty-minute final workout, Jack Sharkey weighed 195½ pounds today and apparently was at his confident best as he broke camp and headed by motor for New York to meet Joe Louis tomorrow night at Yankee Stadium.

Over a broiled steak dinner, his last in camp, he said:

"I am in the best condition since I met Jack Dempsey, and I am confident of beating Louis. I have been promised a title fight if I win.

"If I'm lucky enough to ha Louis early on the chin, I ough

LOUIS EASY FOR ME, SAYS JACK SHARKEY 1936

Boston, July 21 (UP)—Jack Sharkey thinks he can lick Joe Louis "very easily."

"I've been wanting right along to right him," Sharkey said today. "I don't think I'll have any trouble with him.

"I'm glad the fight is only ten rounds. That's all the better for the 'old man,' as they call me. That means I won't have to lay back. I'll just go right in there after that guy from the first bell.

"I'm going to win that old title back."

Jack Sharkey

GREB OR BERG?

(Harry's 100th birthday)

You might be reading this bit of boxing nostalgia on June 6, 1994, which is the 100th anniversary of Harry Greb's birth. You might even feel good about it, like paying your respects at a wake. Every student of the Sweet Science learned in his first lesson that Greb's hallowed name automatically kicks in when the debate turns to greatest fighter, pound-for-pound, who ever lived. Robinson, Pep, Johnson, Dempsey, Armstrong, Greb—they seem linked together like a chain.

The press loved Harry. Journalists never tired of detailing his countless love escapades, his uncontrollable and maniacal acts whenever he was behind the wheel of an automobile, and his revulsion at the very mention of training. Damon Runyon, who was always fascinated by just about everything Harry did, wrote in 1925, "The most remarkable thing about this truly remarkable man is how he musters the stamina to even slip through the ring ropes, let alone be middleweight champion of the world."

Soon after Greb became middleweight champion (in 1923), a story broke in a Pittsburgh newspaper that Greb wasn't his real name, that he had been born Edward Henry *Berg* (Greb spelled backward). Harry vehemently denied the story, but the rumor persisted. The only motive for the deception, the only one that made any sense, was that the name switch would have increased Harry's drawing power because Berg is a common Jewish name, and everybody knew Jews were fanatical supporters of their brethren (especially Benny Leonard).

It seemed strange that after all this controversy, spread over all these years, somebody didn't bother to check the birth records. We did. Shown here is a certified copy of the birth certificate of one Edward Henry Greb, who is unquestionably our hero. From this document we learn his father was Pious Greb, a stone mason, his mother was Annie Greb, and that the blessed event occurred on June 6, 1894, as stated in *The Ring Record Book And Boxing Encyclopedia*. But the document unlocks a startling secret: Harry wasn't born in a hospital, or at his home, or at a doctor's office, but at the corner of Fitch & Dauphin Streets in Pittsburgh's 19th ward. Surely Annie Greb didn't just plop down at that intersection and grind out little Harry. It's our guess that Annie was in a horse-drawn vehicle, either a cab or wagon, racing toward a hospital, accompanied by a midwife named Mrs. M. Werle. But Harry couldn't wait to blast into the world, so the vehicle shrieked to a halt, and out popped Harry, right there on a street corner. Congratulations on your 100th birthday, champ, wherever you are.

Form J 52

Certified Copy of Birth Record

CITY OF PITTSBURGH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Full name of child: Edward Henry Greb
2. Sex: Male
3. Color: White
4. Full name of father: Pious Greb
5. His occupation: Stone Mason
6. His birthplace: ( )
7. Full name of mother: Annie Greb
8. Her birthplace: (?)
9. Date of birth of the child: June 6" 1894
10. Where born: Cor. Fitch & Dauphin street, avenue 19" ward
11. Date of return: July 9" 1894
12. Name of physician or other person signing return: Mrs. M. Werle
13. His or her office or residence: 4733 Laurel street, avenue 16" ward

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec 31, 1948

I hereby certify, That the foregoing is a correct copy of the record of the Birth of Edward Henry Greb as recorded in "Birth Register," Vol. 51 Page 113, in said Bureau, as required by Act of Assembly approved.

April 16, 1870

James H. Hawkins

Clerk, Department of Public Health

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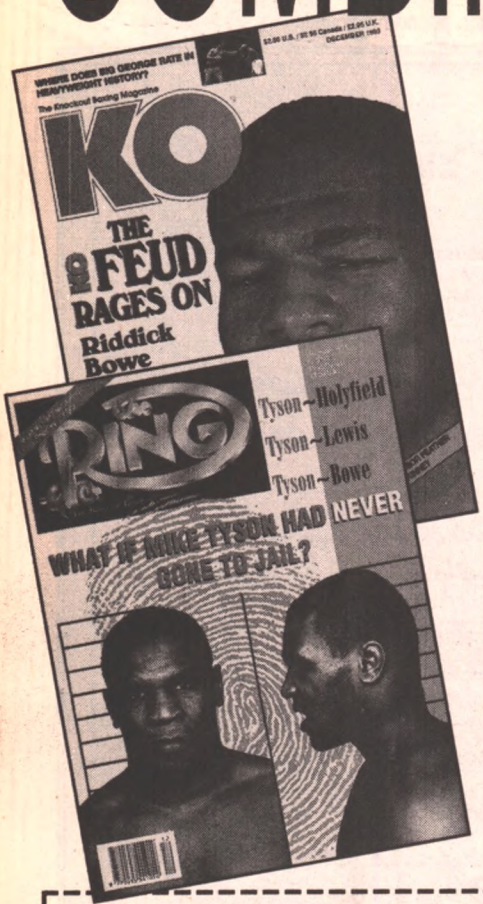

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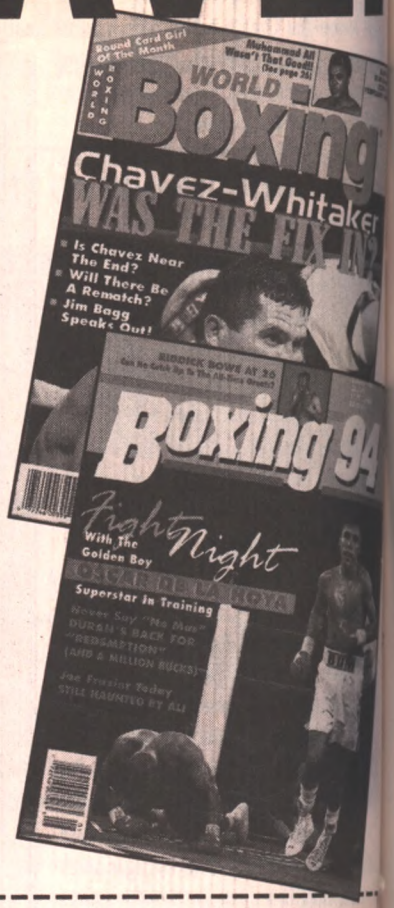

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De La Hoya Kayos Bredahl

THE GOLDEN BOY TAKES A SHAKY STEP TOWARD SUPERSTARDOM

By Ivan G. Goldman

There was the feel of old times, even among fans too young to have lived them. And there was talk of ghosts—Gable, Valentino, Jolson. They used to sit ringside at L.A.'s old Olympic when guys like Benny Leonard and Sugar Ray Robinson were on the card.

For its rebirth in 1994, the celebrity roster had to make do with the likes of Jack Nicholson, Mickey Rourke, and Garry Shandling. For a main event, there was local hero Oscar De La Hoya scoring a TKO at the end of the 10th round and taking the lightly regarded WBO lightweight title from Jimmi Bredahl, a Dane who was stuck in reverse most of the fight.

As for the Grand Olympic Auditorium, it scored itself a victory, but only by split decision. The City of Angels could have used something more conclusive.

Suffocating under the oppressive weight of Crips, Bloods, riots, quakes, mud slides, and aerospace recession, L.A. has in the last couple years excited a hyena-like frenzy in the Eastern media. *Time*, *Newsweek*, CBS, and all the rest

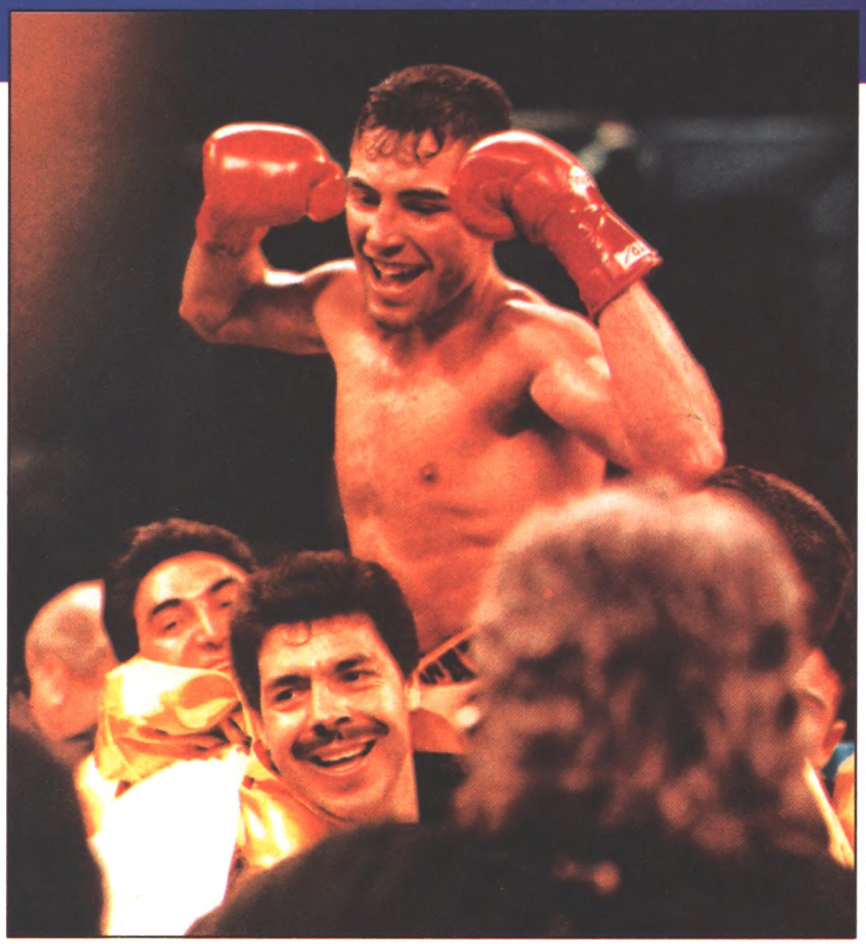


Photo by Brent Cook

Photos by Brent Cook

must be wrong. When he won't fight any of the *real* junior lightweight champions—Azumah Nelson (WBC), Genaro Hernandez (WBA), John-John Molina (IBF), those guys must be afraid of him. Or maybe, as Arum says, they want too much money.

And when Oscar fights a bum, he wasn't really a bum. Oscar just made him look like one.

To make good on the goal of winning a world title after a year of pro bouts, De La Hoya's handlers came up with the perfect opponent. He was somebody who owned sort of a belt, a respectable 16-0 record, and no punch (only five knockouts). Better yet, he was from Copenhagen, so no one had seem him in action.

Bredahl proved a most frustrating foe for De La Hoya. After suffering knockdowns in rounds one and two, the Dane fought only to survive. He made it to round 10.

pretty much concluded the whole state of California should make an appointment with Dr. Kevorkian. L.A. residents who weren't yet psychotic started to feel guilty about it.

In stepped Bob Arum, the Harvard-trained boxing impresario who would, he said, bring back some of that old Tinseltown luster and make everyone feel good again. He offered to stage 48 shows at the Olympic over the next two years if the owners would clear out the cobwebs and call in a plastic surgeon. The Olympic had put on its last show in 1987, but it was then a relic that had expired long before.

Signing a deal with Arum, the owners hired painters and roofers and bolted in new plastic seats, pronouncing the 70-year-old building renovated. This reportedly cost $5-million, but no one produced any receipts.

Arum, beaming like a Moonie, likened the auditorium's rebirth to reopening Ebbets Field for Dodger fans. A kind of supernatural event. An auditorium of dreams. Which, in a peculiar way, made sense. Hollywood and boxing have always fit in well together.

The fight game remains a Hollywood morality play featuring tough fighters with tender hearts and promoters and managers who'd burgle a hospice for loose change. In fact, just about every fight scene in those old movies was filmed at the Olympic.

But for a good fight scene, there has to be a good fight. Fortunately, James "Lights Out" Toney was on the undercard. The IBF super middleweight champion, butted and cut badly at the end of the third round, came out in the fourth and hammered his game challenger, Tim Littles, into the canvas like a nail.

Everyone who saw it had to be thinking along the same lines: You get into the ring with a guy like Toney only if there's no other way to pay for your grandmother's operation.

Afterward, Toney let it be known he was not entirely pleased to be in a prelim for the callow De La Hoya. "When I fight Roy Jones," Toney said, "Oscar's going to be on the card with *me*." Arum, who has to please both ring stars, smiled sweetly while he waited for someone to change the subject.

But around L.A., De La Hoya is the Golden Boy. When he takes a million-plus from his managers and then dumps them, well, the managers

Before the fight, Bredahl promised to pressure De La Hoya like he'd never been pressured. Blah blah, blah blah.

In fact, Bredahl did apply pressure—for almost two rounds. In the first, De La Hoya knocked him down with a lone right. Beating the count, Bredahl came forward again, only to run into a fierce combination. In the second, with less than a minute left, De La Hoya backed him into a corner and put him down with a solid flurry. When Bredahl got up this time, he circled and retreated, throwing pitty-pat punches that had absolutely no zip because he was backing up.

By the third, Bredahl showed only occasional offense. He had one goal—to reach his stool at the end of each round. When retreat didn't work, he charged into clinches and waited for the next

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

THE *REAL* MAIN EVENT

When promoter Bob Arum decided to reopen the famed Olympic Auditorium, it was not just for the benefit of Oscar De La Hoya. It was, in fact, IBF super middleweight champion James Toney who became the first world title fight winner at the Olympic since Azumah Nelson in 1987. This was his second defense.

Before the bout, Toney, 167¾, Ann Arbor, Michigan, stated mandatory challenger Tim Littles, 166½, Flint, Michigan, had shown him no respect and would be punished accordingly. It was Littles, however, who drew first blood; an unintentional headbutt in round three opened a deep gash over Toney's left eye that later required 12 stitches.

Up to that point, it had been a fairly even fight, with Toney, 42-0-2 (28), looking to counter and Littles, 24-1 (15), scoring with a handful of straight rights. Perhaps inspired by the sight of his opponent's blood, Littles decided to trade—and quickly paid for his boldness. Toney staggered him with a left hook late in the third, then dropped him with an overhand right 25 seconds before the bell. It was the first knockdown of Littles' career.

Before the start of the fourth, Dr. Robert Karns told Toney the cut could bring an end to the fight. As a result, the champion stormed out of his corner to finish the job. Littles was simply overpowered. Toney downed him with a right, then again with a right uppercut. Finally, after Littles was felled for a third time with a right and a hook, referee Pat Russell (USA) called a halt at the 1:03 mark.

The judges, all from the USA, were Fritz Werner, Paul Weitzel, and Gary Merritt.

"I knew it was a headbutt, but the doctor said we had only one round left," said the 25-year-old Toney. "I saw my own blood and knew I had to take care of business and finish it. Despite his sense of urgency, Toney's title was not in jeopardy; according to IBF rules, had six rounds not been completed, the bout would have been declared a technical draw.

The attendance was 5,900.

—David Wood

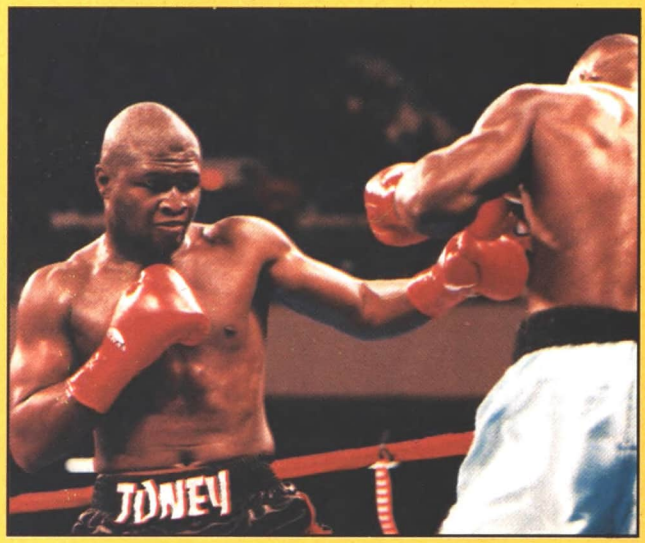


Photo by Brent Cook

Toney stuns Littles with a bodypunch

ee like a mischievous puppy.

De La Hoya stayed after him, but, confused by Bredahl's left-handed stance, hunted only his head, forsaking the body shots that had worked so well in his earlier fights. The only time Bredahl managed to hurt the challenger was in the eighth, when he butted him in the left eye.

In the 10th, Bredahl was knocked down a third time. By now his face looked like a sick turnip, with a speed bump over the right eye. He didn't throw one earnest punch the entire round. How could referee Lou Moret not stop the fight? Bredahl had reached his beloved stool for the last time; ring physician Adam Karns said no more.

De La Hoya had won every round on all three judges' cards. Interestingly, Denmark's Jess Andreasen awarded De La Hoya only 10-9 margins in the first and second despite an indisputable knockdown in each round. *Hmmm.* The other judges were Wiso Fernandez (Puerto Rico) and Raul Caiz (USA).

"My strategy was to kill his stomach," Bredahl said, "but he killed my face first." Bredahl pronounced De La Hoya a "good fighter, a good boxer. He punches hard. He punches clean. And that hurts very much."

The 21-year-old De La Hoya, who now claims to be his own manager after jettisoning Robert Mittleman and Steve Nelson, sounded human and likable after the fight. Instead of telling everyone how great he was, or claiming that he'd won a big-time championship, he said, "Eventually I'll be fighting the best in the world. Eventually, that's down the road. But I need a little more timing, more strength, and experience."

De La Hoya said he planned to defend the title once (against Italy's Giorgio Campanella) and then move back up to 135 pounds, though he said he felt good at junior lightweight. After training seven weeks at Big Bear, in the moun-

(Continued on page 54)

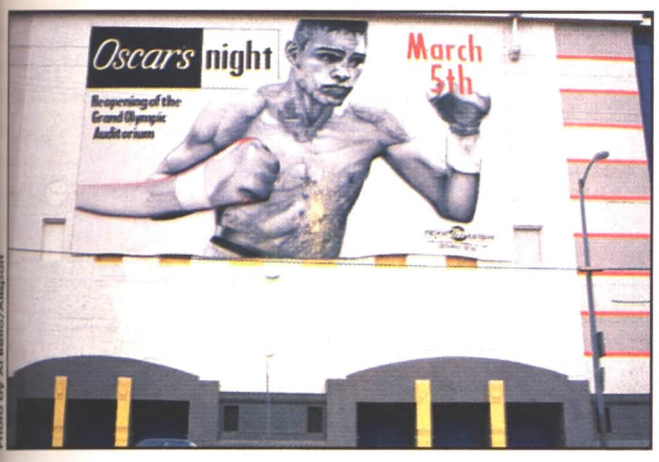
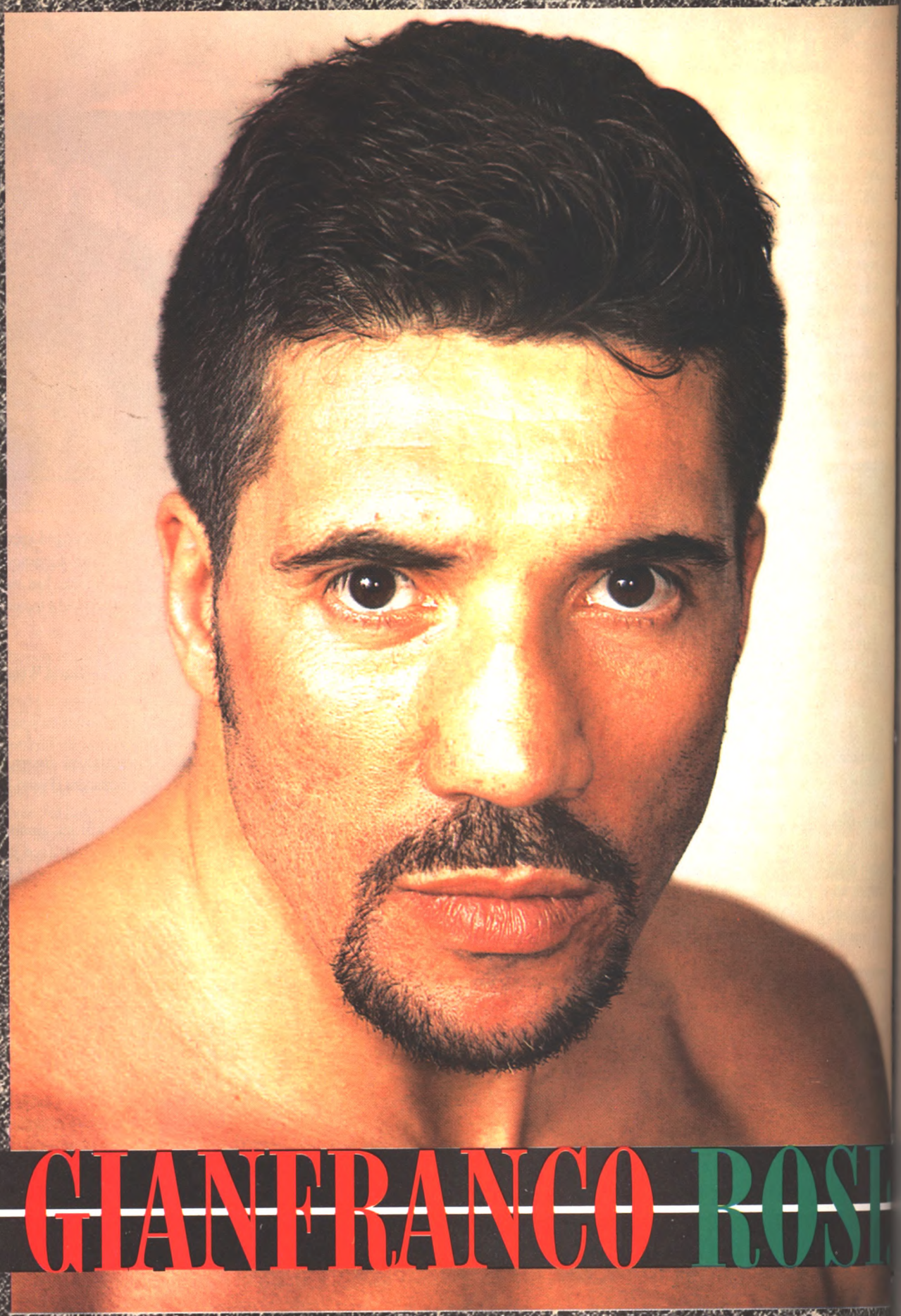


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

And you thought Oscar night was March 21. De La Hoya was the featured attraction, but the Grand Olympic Auditorium was the star.



GIANFRANCO ROSI

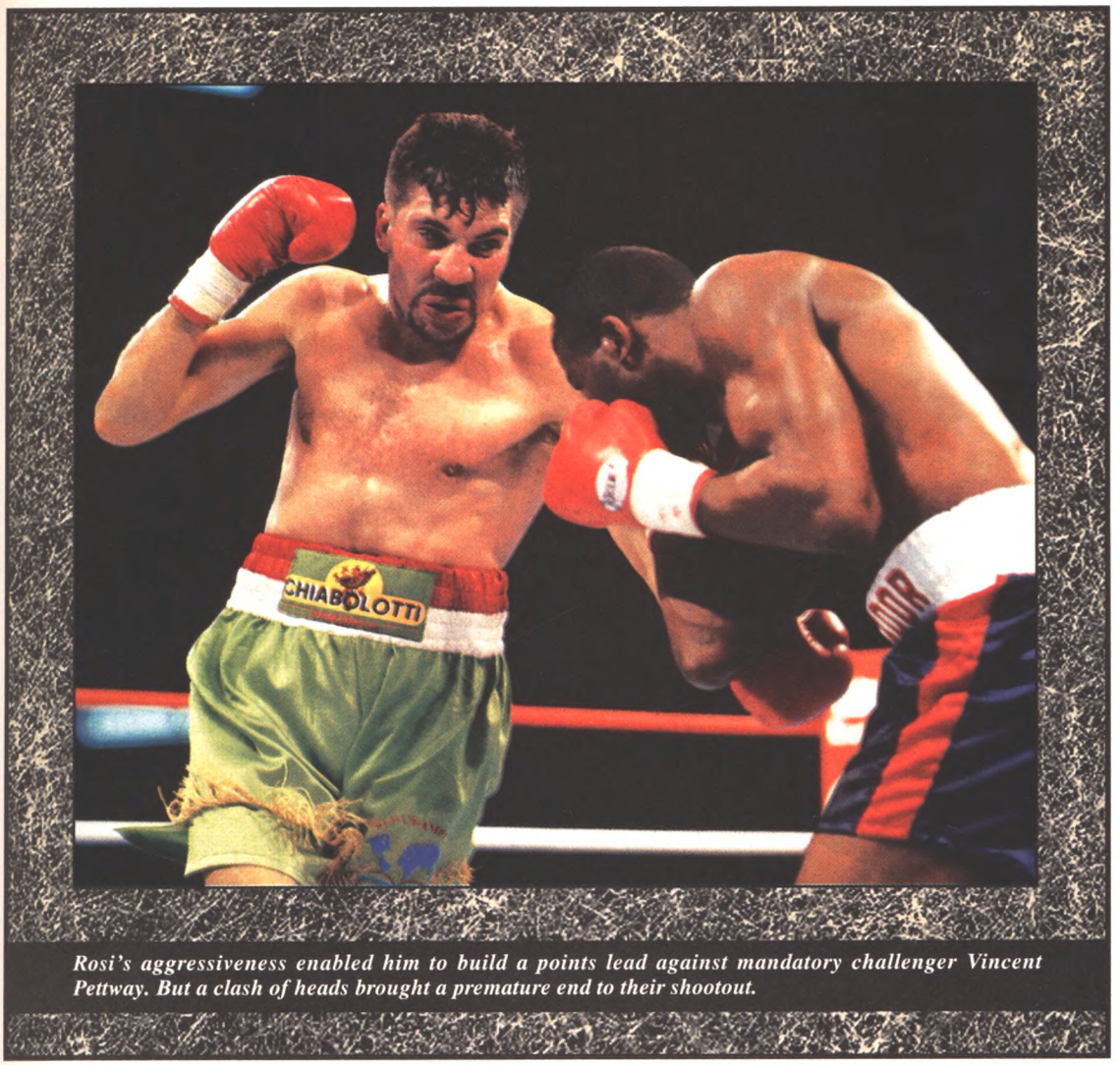


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Rosi's aggressiveness enabled him to build a points lead against mandatory challenger Vincent Pettway. But a clash of heads brought a premature end to their shootout.

By Jack Welsh

A boxing writer has to be sharp during the marathon press conferences Don King hosts 48 hours before his marathon shows. King talks a lot more than the fighters, and if your mind wanders, you'll miss one of the two or three quotes worth jotting down.

It was a bit different, however, at the gathering before King's monster card in March at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Among the four world title fights was IBF junior middleweight champion Gianfranco Rosi's defense against powerpuncher Vincent Pettway. It was the Italian titlist's first appearance in the USA in five years, his first bout for King, and his first defense in 14 months. Seated in the second row of an expanded dais, Rosi waited patiently for his introduction, then merrily blew kisses at King. *So* European.

"I want to thank Don King for the opportunity to fight in Las Vegas," the 36-year-old veteran said through his translator. "Now I have a surprise for Don."

Rosi handed the smiling King a large pink box. "I am the champion of Italy, and this is the champion chocolate for you. So when you are depressed, you'll eat this and think of me."

Our guess is that when King is depressed, he'll continue thinking of those multimillion-dollar Mike Tyson title fights. Nonetheless, "The Only-In-America Man" was delighted by the display of respect and affection. In fact, he could come back only with "beware of Italians bearing gifts." He had been upstaged, and clearly didn't mind.

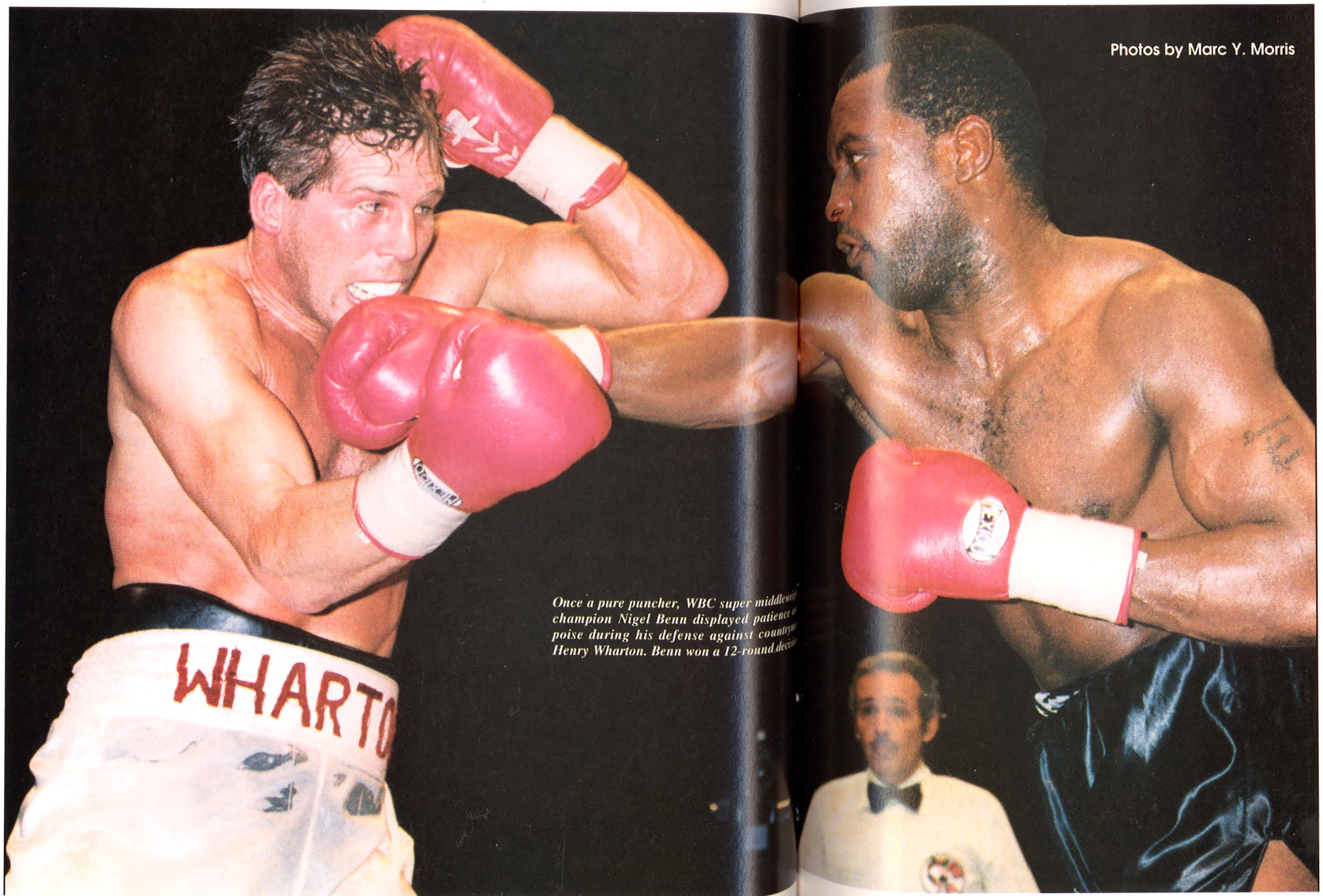
Rosi, who hails from Perugia, the chocolate

(Continued on page 55)

THE CHAMPION WHO WON'T GO AWAY IS HERE

THE METAMORPHOSIS OF NIGEL BENN

FROM CRUSHER TO CRAFTSMAN



Photos by Marc Y. Morris

Once a pure puncher, WBC super middleweight champion Nigel Benn displayed patience and poise during his defense against countryman Henry Wharton. Benn won a 12-round decision.

By Brian Doogan

The metamorphosis undergone by Nigel Benn from rugged thug to refined and restrained boxer-puncher has proven so extensive that in his fifth defense of the WBC super middleweight title against Yorkshireman Henry Wharton, Benn's most effective weapon was a piercing and persistent *jab*. Nothing earth-shaking about that, you might say, apart from the fact that his previous knowledge of the word jab seemed confined to something you get from your doctor when you're sick or before heading off somewhere foreign.

Furthermore, the Wharton fight wasn't an aberration. Against arch-enemy Chris Eubank in his preceding bout, Benn boxed with such composure that some suspected his gumshield was immersed in a tranquilizing solution between rounds just to ensure the effect didn't wear off.

THE RING can exclusively allay these rumors and reveal that such suspicions have no foundation whatsoever. But Benn has indeed made a conscious departure from his primitive old habits, opting for a more subtle approach. Call it a sign of maturity, a coming of age, a watershed. Or just call it a sound and sensible career move.

"I'm 30 years old now," says Benn. "I don't expect to be in this business much longer. It's time to settle down and enjoy my kids. I'm probably not as reckless as I was, but I'm smarter now. I can use my head."

Well, that's altogether marvelous, that is. What about the poor fight fans who now have to stick their finger in a socket to realize the same surge of raw, nervous energy they were used to getting from a Benn scrap? It's not very fair on them, is it? Whatever happened to the Wild West-style shootouts in which the only certainty was that it was going to be either Benn or the other guy? What was so wrong with them? Okay, they caused Benn's cornermen quite some stress, but they were an electrical experience for the rest of us.

"I always please my fans," Benn asserts, "whether I outbox my opponent or outpunch him. I enjoy a good old-fashioned tear-up. I've been in with them all: Robbie Sims, Iran Barkley, Chris Eubank, Michael Watson. I've learned a thing or two about taking care of myself."

Jimmy Tibbs, Benn's fourth trainer, is the man credited with fashioning "The Dark Destroyer" into a smooth and more compact fighter. He has worked with Benn since the first

Above: When Wharton accelerated, Benn dipp and ducked and dodged most of the challenger punches. Has "The Dark Destroyer" become defensive master? Left: Realizing his chance is come and gone, Wharton succumbs to moment. Had he mounted an offensive in early rounds, he might have scored an upset.

fight against Mauro Galvano, and they ha gelled together well.

"Nigel is a good listener and a very ha worker," says Tibbs. "We've worked on h paying more attention to defense, but he's still dangerous as he ever was. The rough edges ha been smoothed out."

Not long ago the slightest suggestion t Benn could mature into a controlled and polish performer would have generated the same kin skepticism as a Church of Rome declaration t because of numerous petitions, it was thinking canonizing Attila the Hun. Benn, you see, wa conspicuously uncultured breed of fighter wh boxing philosophy seemed to amount to "I opponent, will bash his head in," or something that effect.

This frightening mentality was never m plainly obvious than in a 1990 slugfest with h Barkley. Relentlessly Benn bashed his oppo when Barkley was upright, impetuously

(Continued on page

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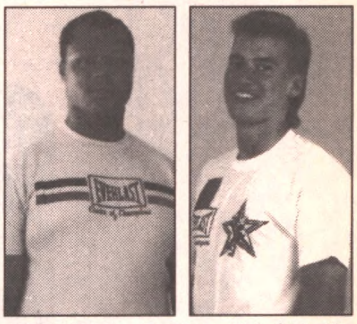

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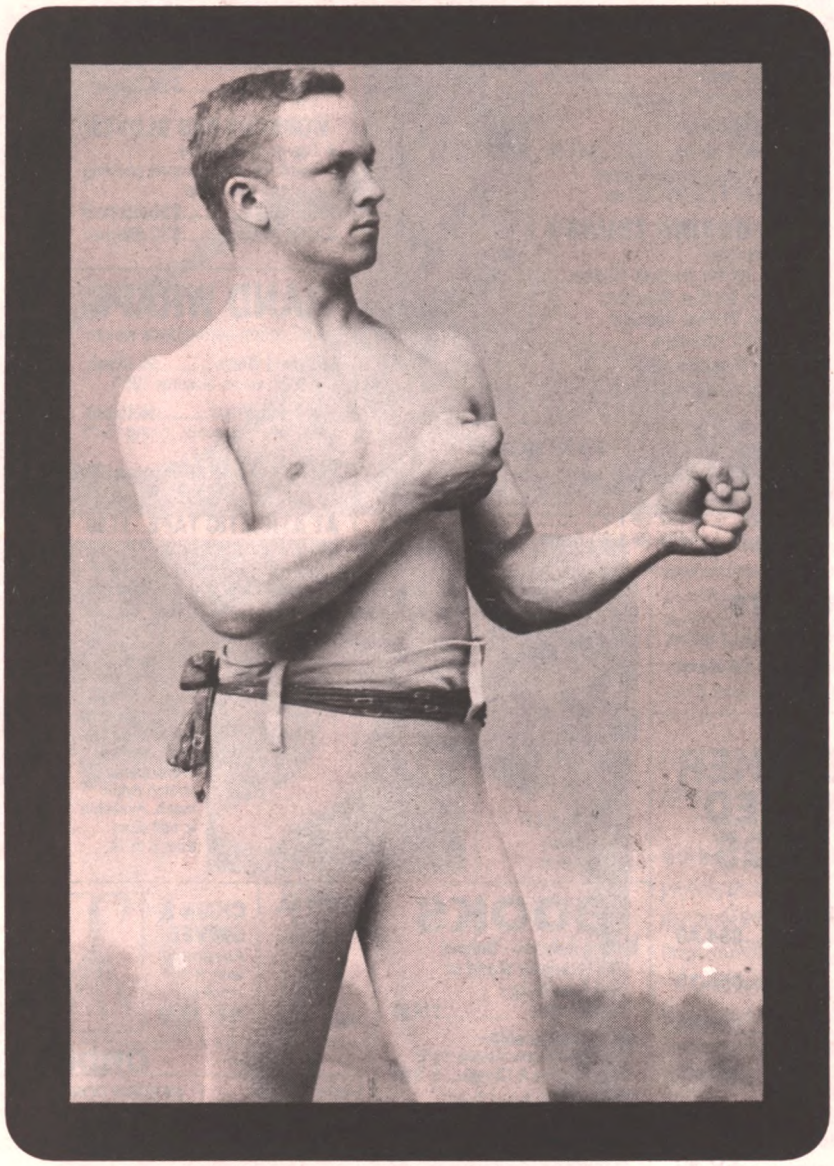
THE CONTROVERSIAL SULLIVAN-McCAFFREY SHOWDOWN



The First Heavyweight Title Fight Of The Modern Era

By Michael C. DeLisa

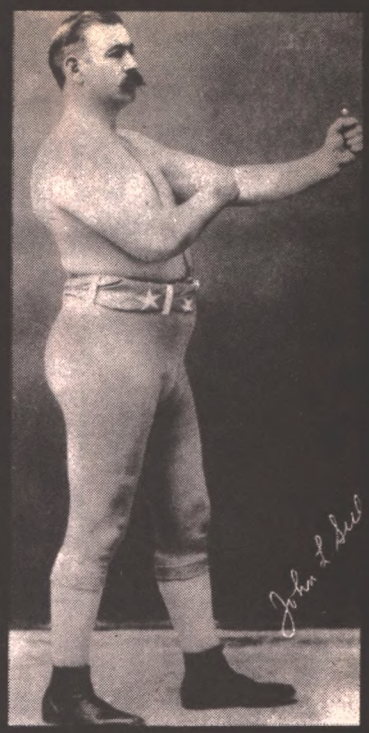
Most boxing historians agree that John L. Sullivan's bout with James J. Corbett was not the first heavyweight title fight under Queensberry Rules. Nevertheless, the actual inaugural fight stands in the record books as a uniform footnote to history: John L. Sullivan W 6 Dominick McCaffrey. And, for more than 100 years, those same record books have failed to reflect the true circumstances of that seminal fight and have omitted all reference to the seventh round fought that day in August 1885.

After winning the title from Paddy Ryan in 1882, John L. Sullivan, "The Boston Strong Boy," conducted a nationwide exhibition tour, popularizing the Queensberry Rules along the way. When the tour ended in May 1884, the 26-year-old champion began preparing to defend the title. Sullivan's training consisted mostly of wandering from tavern to tavern and drinking with his pals and cronies. He canceled a scheduled June 1884 match with the annoying Englishman, Charlie Mitchell, by showing up drunk before a packed house at Madison Square Garden and announcing through an alcoholic fog that he could not fight because he was "shick." A young, ambitious pugilist named Dominick F. McCaffrey stood among the tumult and volunteered to fight, as Mitchell stormed from the arena.

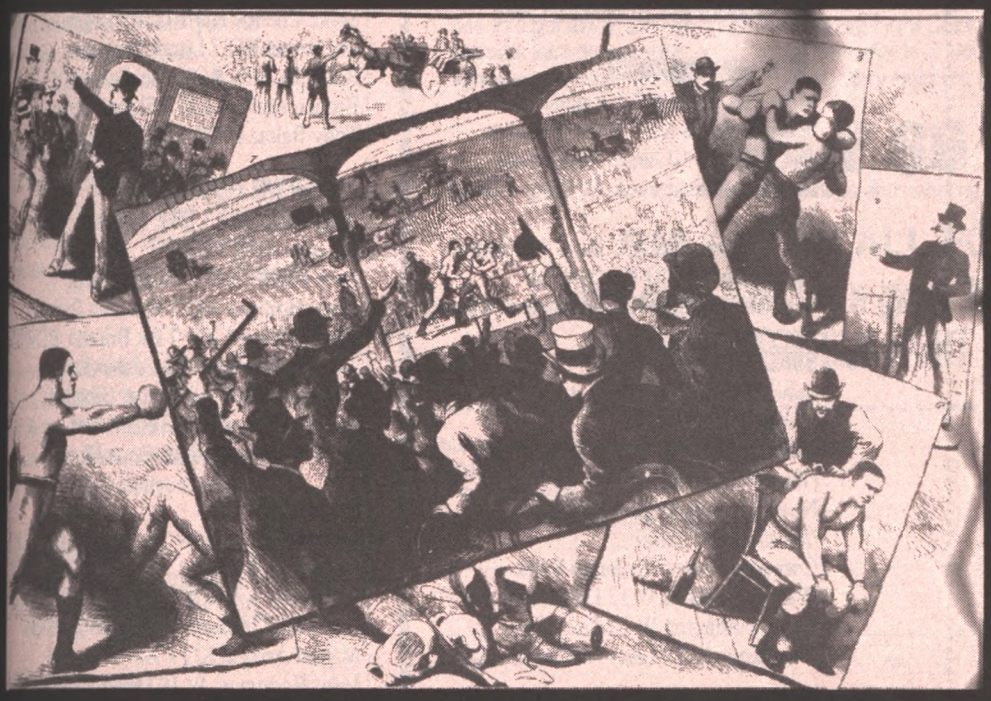
Born on September 24, 1863, McCaffrey hailed from Pittsburgh. His parents urged him to become a priest, but the strong-willed and competitive McCaffrey decided upon a career in the ring. He had his first prize fight on February 5, 1881, against Charles McCoy. At the time, McCaffrey worked as a shipping clerk for the Allegheny Valley Railroad. McCoy, a local bare-knuckle brawler, put up $250 and challenged the 17-year-old McCaffrey to a fight. Incredibly, they were to battle outdoors near Youngstown, Ohio—with five inches of snow on the ground! A few spectators joined in shoveling a clearing to serve as a ring. But just as the participants squared off, the local sheriff chased everyone back to Youngstown. Since the stakeholders wanted the fight to take place that day, they arranged to use the ballroom of a local hotel, telling the proprietor that a clog-dancing contest was to take place. The organizers made a ring with the chairs in the room, and the fight began. At first, McCaffrey had the worst of it, but McCoy quit after taking a battering in the sixth round. The fight lasted 19 minutes.

After the McCoy scrap, McCaffrey fought often and achieved a fair measure of success and recognition in his first couple of years as a professional. He advanced to 9-0 by defeating such pugilists as Mike Cleary, John Rennie, and

(Continued on page 60)



John L. Sullivan became the first heavyweight champion of the modern era based on his victory over McCaffrey in 1885.



A variety of scenes from the Sullivan-McCaffrey title bout, fought on August 29, 1885, at Chester Driving Park in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Herbie Hide KO 7 Michael Bentt
Oliver McCall KO 1 Dan Murphy
Larry Donald W 12 Jeremy Williams
Larry Holmes W 10 Garing Lane
Joe Hipp W 12 Alex Garcia
Frank Bruno KO 1 Jesse Ferguson
Alexandre Zolkin W 10 Frankie Swindell
Jorge Luis Gonzalez KO 1 Mike Rouse
Carlos DeLeon W 10 Bobby Joe Arthurs
Boris Powell KO 5 Ron Gullette
Danell Nicholson W 10 Mark Young
Shannon Briggs KO 1 Jimmy Ellis
Melvin Foster W 10 Martin Foster
Peter McNeeley KO 1 Larry Davis
Chris McDonald KO 4 Dave Cherry

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Orlin Norris W 12 Arthur Williams
(Retains WBA Title)
Robert Daniels KO 6 James Flowers
Kenny Keene KO 4 Bobby Crabtree
Adolpho Washington W 12 Dale Jackson
Dennis Andries W 4 Mike Peak
Keith McKnight KO 2 Samson Cohen
James Heath KO 3 J.B. Williamson
Dino Stewart KO 10 Michael Greer

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Mike McCallum KO 5 Randall Yonker
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 7 Eddy Smulders
Tim Hillie W 10 James Williamson
Dariusz Michalczewski W Disq. 1 David Vedder
Ramzi Hassan Tech. Draw 6 Eric Brown
Greg Everett W 10 Tim St. Clair
Sugarboy Malinga KO 7 Mohammed Isaacs

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
James Toney KO 4 Tim Littles
(Retains IBF Title)
Steve Little W 12 Michael Nunn
(Wins WBA Title)
Nigel Benn W 12 Henry Wharton
(Retains WBC Title)
Cornelius Carr W 12 James Cook
Warren Williams W 12 Daniel Perez
Kevin Fullington W 10 Terry Seay
John Jarvis KO 2 Larry McFadden

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Gerald McClellan KO 1 Gilbert Baptist
(Retains WBC Title)
Roy Jones KO 6 Danny Garcia
(Non-Title Bout)
Julian Jackson W 10 Eduardo Ayala
Bernard Hopkins KO 3 Melvin Wynn
Reggie Johnson KO 1 Ramon Felix
Quincy Taylor KO 12 Otis Grant
Chris Pyatt KO 1 Mark Cameron
Dana Rosenblatt KO 9 Brett Lally
Steve Collins W 8 Paul Wesley
Joe Gatti KO 2 Mike Williams

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 2 Armand Picar
(Retains WBA Title)
Gianfranco Rosi Tech. Draw 6 Vincent Pettway
(Retains IBF Title)
Terry Norris KO 4 Armando Campas
Javier Castillejo KO 3 Santo Colombo
Stephan Martinez KO 7 Griffin Goleman
David Gonzalez KO 2 Tracy Sneed
Curtis Summit W 12 Emmett Linton
Lloyd Honeyghan KO 6 Kevin Adamson
Robert McCracken W 12 Andy Till
Tocker Pudwill W 10 Heath Todd
Raul Marquez W 8 John Jeter

WELTERWEIGHTS
Yori Boy Campas KO 2 Jorge Vaca
Roger Mayweather KO 3 Cirilo Nino
Roger Mayweather W 10 Rod Sequenan
Greg Haugen KO 6 Ray Garcia
Spike Cheney KO 10 Gary Logan
Del Bryan KO 7 Derek Grainger
Romallis Ellis KO 5 Tim Scott
Bronco McKart KO 6 Skipper Kelp
Tony Baltazar KO 1 Jose Lopez

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Juan Coggi KO 3 Eder Gonzalez
(Retains WBA Title)
Zack Padilla KO 4 Dwayne Swift
Andy Holligan KO 5 Massimo Bertozzi
Rodney Moore KO 7 Pat Briceno
Gert Bo Jacobsen KO 2 Johar Lashin
George Scott W 12 Homer Gibbins
Racheed Lawal W 8 Tony Foster
Fidel Avendano W 10 Omar Flores

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Nazarov Olzubek W 12 Dingaan Thobela
(Retains WBA Title)
Leavander Johnson KO 8 Sharmba Mitchell
Leavander Johnson KO 5 Clifford Hicks
Miguel Arrozal KO 4 Alfred Rangel
Jesus Rodriguez W 10 David Sample
Fabian Tejeda KO 5 Juan Carlos Cortez
Johnny Avila KO 8 Rodney Wilson
Billy Schwer KO 3 Sean Murphy

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya KO 10 Jimmi Bredahl
Wilson Rodriguez KO 5 Antonio Hernandez
David Santos KO 2 Jeff Hanna
Hector Monjardin KO 10 Ben Lopez
John Brown KO 1 Victor Holmes
George Parra W 10 Pedro Corral
Ramon Sanchez W 10 Lupe Pintor

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Eloy Rojas KO 5 Seiji Asakawa
(Retains WBA Title)
Steve Robinson KO 12 Paul Hodkinson
Tony Green W 10 Felipe Garcia
Stephane Haccoun KO 1 Roger Bonine
Jeff Trimble KO 7 Bones Adams
Cris Saguid W 12 Chun Hyun Kim

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vasquez KO 1 Yuichi Kasai
(Retains WBA Title)
Welcome Ncita KO 2 Kenny Mitchell
Julio Gervacio KO 2 Carlos Reyna
Hiroaki Yokota KO 7 Samuel Duran
Sergio Reyes KO 1 Johnny Alameda

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Orlando Canizales KO 4 Gerardo Martinez
(Retains IBF Title)
Nana Konadu W 10 Adolpho Castillo
Wayne McCullough KO 3 Mark Hargreaves
Armando Salazar KO 3 Jose Quirino
Paulie Ayala W 8 Javier Diaz
Tim Austin KO 2 Antonio Garris

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 3 Justo Zuniga
Cecilio Espino KO 10 Miguel Mercedes
Rolando Bohol KO 10 Tatsuya Sugi
Cuahtemoc Gomez KO 11 Mike Espinoza

FLYWEIGHTS
Mark Johnson KO 2 Eduardo Ramirez
Melchor Cob Castro W 10 Domingo Sosa
Robbie Regan W 8 Mauricio Bernal
Raul Rios KO 1 Enrique Orozco
Darren Fifield KO 6 Danny Porter

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Eric Griffin W 12 Marcos Pacheco
Shiro Yahiro KO 7 Jose Martin Lopez

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin W 12 Ronnie Magramo
(Retains IBF Title)

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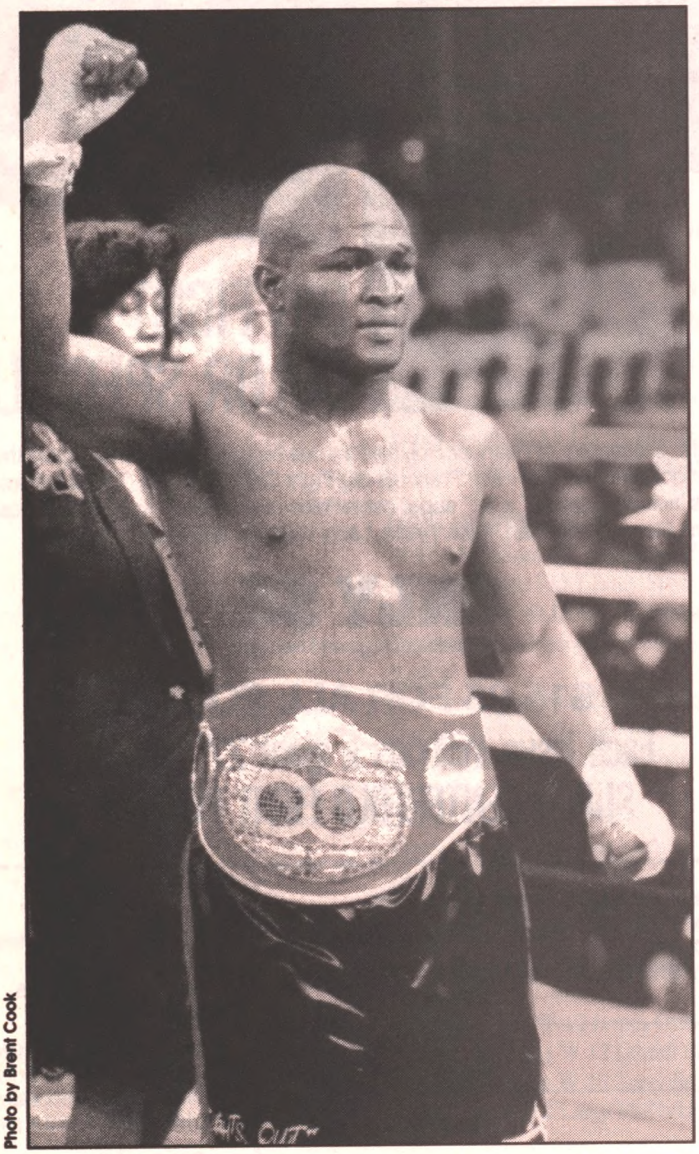


Photo by Brent Cook

IBF super middleweight champion James Toney fights his best against quality competition, which makes us wonder what he might do with Prince Charles Williams, Roy Jones, Nigel Benn, or Gerald McClellan.

What Toney did with mandatory challenger Tim Littles was brutal enough to scare his potential opponents into other options. After an unintentional butt opened a deep, wide cut over his left eye, the champion scored four knockdowns in less than 90 seconds. Littles was simply overwhelmed. In fact, the outcome was so decisive that Lou Duva, Littles' cornerman, couldn't even come up with an excuse to create a postfight disturbance.

Toney keeps getting better. How much more room for improvement can there be?

James Toney

Steve Little W 12 Michael Nunn

London, England: Unheralded but undaunted, Little, 168, Reading, Pennsylvania, created a sensation, outpointing a lethargic Nunn, 167, Davenport, Iowa, by split decision to seize the WBA super middleweight title before a crowd of about 8,000 at Earls Court 2. It was Nunn's fifth defense.

Returning from a 15-month sabbatical, Little owed a dubious number-one rating to promoter Don King. Moreover, his humble resume contained nothing comparable to that of two-division champion Nunn, whose sole previous loss had come against James Toney. Nunn apparently trained accordingly, weighing 172 the day before the weigh-in. Failure to properly shed weight cost him dearly.

The action began spectacularly, with Nunn, 42-2 (27), being dropped by a sweeping left hook after only 30 seconds. More shocked than shaken, the southpaw clambered up at English referee John Coyle's count of three and evaded most of Little's ensuing onslaught. Hereafter, the bout degenerated into mind-numbing monotony.

Little, 22-13-2 (5), moved forward, offering an attack that lacked imagination and coordination. At long range Nunn was clearly superior, but he lacked accuracy, as well as the strength to sustain his effort.

Psychologically, the champion never got into the fight. Part of the problem was undoubtedly the early knockdown. Furthermore, he seemed to have underestimated his task, believing his natural talent would carry him through. In spite of boxing terribly, he seemed to have done just enough to keep the title. However, two judges thought differently. Luis Rivera (USA) and Philippe Verbeke (Belgium) scored for Little by 115-112 and 116-114, respectively. Orlando Sam Suarez (Panama) saw it 115-113 for Nunn, as did The RING.

Afterward, Nunn was non-committal about his immediate future. Little may engage in a June unification vs. WBC champion Nigel Benn, who outpointed Henry Wharton in the main event *(see page 40)*.

Promoters: Don King and Frank Warren

(2-26-94)

Brian Doogan

Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 2 Armand Picar

Las Vegas, Nevada: Making his second American appearance and his sixth defense of the WBA junior middleweight title, southpaw Vasquez, 54, Sante Fe, Argentina, dispatched Orient champion Picar, 153½, Manila, Philippines, at 2:05 of the second round before a crowd of about 6,000 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Picar, 17-7-4 (10), made a long trip for a short stay. After the first exchange, it was clear the challenger was no match for the strong and aggressive Vasquez, 48-1 (34). The champion immediately went to work on the inside, and it was amazing that the light-punching Picar lasted as long as he did.

In the first, Vasquez jolted his opponent with lefts and rights, as well as a low blow just before the bell that drew a warning from referee Mitch Halpern (USA). In the second, Vasquez scored three knockdowns. The Filipino was face-down on the canvas when Halpern waved the bout over at the 2:05 mark because of the three-knockdown rule.

"If I had pushed it a little bit, I probably could have knocked out Picar in the first round," said Vasquez. "But I wanted to get in some rounds.

"This was my first time in America as world champion, and I wanted to make a good impression. I'd be very happy if I could become the number one Julio Cesar. I'm not right now. But in the future, maybe yes."

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Vasquez drove Picar to his knees

Said Picar, "It was a very long plane trip, over here. I felt lazy because of the long trip. I just never felt right."

Vasquez earned $50,000 and Picar $15,000.

The judges were Cindy Bartin, Carol Castellano, and Art Lurie (all USA).

Promoter: Don King

(3-4-94)

Jack Welsh

Gerald McClellan KO 1 Gilbert Baptist

Las Vegas, Nevada: WBC middleweight champion McClellan, 159, Freeport, Illinois, drew little satisfaction in sending veteran Baptist, 158½, San Diego, into permanent retirement at 1:37 of the first round at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. McClellan's second defense was little more than a showcase for his May 7 rematch with former champion Julian Jackson. The 30-year-old Baptist was a substitute for mandatory challenger Lamar Parks, who pulled out after injuring his right shoulder.

In a pair of outings since winning the title from Jackson in May 1993, McClellan hasn't reached round two. Last August he kayoed Jay Bell in 30 seconds.

McClellan, 30-2 (28), jolted Baptist, 28-17 (12), with his first punch, a solid right hand. The champion continued to punish Baptist along the ropes, hurting him with his pet punch, a hook to the body. Seconds later, Baptist fell from a right and a left uppercut.

Upon rising, Baptist could not defend himself. As he was being punched, the challenger attempted to throw his arms around McClellan. Both fighters fell, and referee Richard Steele (USA) wisely called a halt without counting.

"I worked very hard for this fight," said McClellan. "I trained 7½ weeks. People said I would have trouble making the weight. Ask Baptist if I had any problems. I'm stronger now than ever."

The only interesting angle of the fight was McClellan's corner. Emanuel Steward was in the arena, but did not work with his fighter.

"I started training camp early, and Emanuel came in late," explained

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Another first-round kayo for McClellan

McClellan. "We both agreed that since I was training so long by myself, I would just finish it out. But we're fine. We'll pick up together when I start for Julian Jackson."

McClellan earned $200,000 and Baptist $55,000.

The judges were Herbert Minn, Barbara Perez, and Dave Moretti (all USA).

Promoter: Don King

(3-4-94)

Jack Welsh

Orlin Norris W 12 Arthur Williams

Las Vegas, Nevada: After seemingly wasting an early knockdown, WBA cruiserweight champion Norris, 187, San Diego, barely survived a shaky sixth round and went on to score a controversial split decision over mandatory challenger Williams, 189, Las Vegas, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. It was Norris' first defense, and by far the most entertaining of the four world title fights on Don King's "Global Warfare" card.

Norris, 40-3 (22) with 1 no-decision, was a 5-1 favorite, and Williams, 21-2-1 (16), seemed overmatched when a right forced him to touch his right glove to the canvas with 30 seconds remaining in the first round. Referee Toby Gibson correctly ruled a knockdown.

The fight became more difficult for Norris in the second, when Williams, capitalizing on his 7¾-inch reach advantage, opened a cut on the champion's right eyelid. Williams' finest moment came in the sixth. After being staggered by a left hook, Norris appeared headed for the canvas. But the challenger landed only three times in a wild 16-punch flurry. Norris survived without going down. Still, two of the judges scored for Williams by 10-8.

Norris' recuperative powers were impressive. He came back to take the seventh, but Williams got the best of the mid-ring exchanges in the eighth. Norris remained aggressive down the stretch, blocking most of Williams' blows with his arms and hurting the challenger with a right uppercut in the 11th. Norris continued to press forward in the 12th, with Williams apparently desperate for a knockout.

Jerry Roth and Patricia Jarman scored 114-112 and 118-110, respectively, for Norris. Bill Graham had Williams in front by 114-112. (All three judges are from the USA.) THE RING favored Norris by 116-112.

"When I heard the people booing [the decision], I couldn't understand it," said Norris. "Williams ran throughout the fight."

"That belt belongs to me," countered the 29-year-old Williams. "This is a shame, a real bad, bad decision. I never thought I'd go through something like this in my life. It makes you want to stop boxing, but I'm not going to do that. I'm going to still keep my head up, but there's got to be a rematch."

Norris earned a career-high $337,500 and Williams $50,000.

Promoter: Don King

(3-4-94)

Jack Welsh

Williams left Norris a bloody mess

Orlando Canizales KO 4 Gerardo Martinez

San Jose, California: Fourteen down, two to go.

IBF bantamweight champion Canizales, 118, Laredo, Texas, continued his pursuit of Manuel Ortiz' division record of 15 consecutive successful title defenses by stopping a troublesome Martinez, 118, San Jose, before a crowd of 1,925 at the San Jose State Event Center Arena.

(Ortiz set the record from 1943 to 1946. After losing the title, he regained it and made four more successful defenses.)

Martinez' fans whooped it up early as the determined, go-for-broke home boy took the fight to the champion in the first round.

"I knew he'd put pressure on me in front of his hometown fans," said Canizales, 36-1-1 (27) with 1 no-contest. "But I was just as strong as he was. He's the hardest puncher I've met, but I came well-prepared."

Having scored with several rights, Martinez, 29-2 (15), seemed to have the first round in the bank when, with 13 seconds remaining, he was downed by a right-left-right combination. The bell sounded after referee Lou Moret's mandatory eight-count, and no more punches were landed. While Martinez later said he hadn't been in trouble, it appeared that had the round lasted a few more seconds, he would have been fortunate to survive. Despite the challenger's excellent showing over the first 2½ minutes, all three judges scored 10-8 for Canizales.

A superb counterpuncher, Canizales saw that in his efforts to launch furious rallies, Martinez was dropping his left hand. The results were almost predictable. Canizales rattled Martinez' ribcage with counters from both hands, but the local favorite held his own in the second and third, at certain points chasing Canizales around the ring.

The quick finish in the fourth caught everybody off-guard—especially Martinez. Canizales backed him to the ropes, and a left hook to the jaw, followed by a combination, dropped him to the floor. Upon rising, Martinez was wobbly, and after hesitating for a moment, Moret (USA) called a halt at the 2:22 mark.

"To be honest, I was hurt," said Martinez. "After all, it's the referee's job to protect the fighter."

"I've come a long way," reflected Canizales. "I've been a champion 5½ years, and every title fight has been harder. This was no exception."

This was Martinez' second try at the world title. In May 1990, he was stopped by then-WBC champion Jibaro Perez. He earned $25,000. Canizales pocketed $100,000.

The judges were Robert Exton, Gwen Adair, and Ronnie Ralston (all USA).

Promoters: Cedric Kushner, Joe Gagliardi

(2-26-94)

Jack Fiske

Ploenchit (left) surprised Griman

Yan Sow Ploenchit W 12 David Griman

Chachoengsao, Thailand: Unbeaten but unheralded Thai Ploenchit outjabbed and countered heavily favored Venezuelan Griman en route to capturing a unanimous decision, and the WBA flyweight title, at Chachoengsao Provincial Gymnasium. It was Griman's third defense of the title he won in December 1992.

Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia) scored 120-111, Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea) 117-112, and Larry Rozadilla (USA) 115-114. The referee was Masakazu Uchida (Japan).

Ploenchit, 21, became the 19th Thai world champion by winning a battle of tall jabbers. Griman seemed to have left his sharpness back home, and from the third round on, Ploenchit, 17-0 (5), dominated the exchanges by wielding a faster and more accurate left hand. From the second through the seventh he repeatedly scored with left-rights and counter hooks. Forced to come forward, the 26-year-old Griman, 19-2 (12), took the eighth, but the precise Ploenchit rebounded to capture the ninth, 10th, and 11th. Griman was desperate in the 12th, and his aggressiveness enabled him to take the round. But it didn't make a difference; he was too far behind on points.

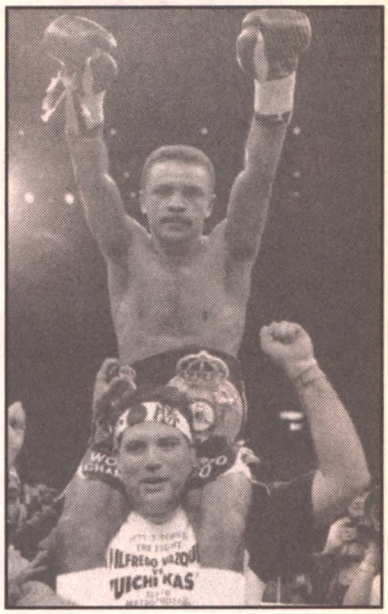
In Thailand, Ploenchit is referred to as "a second Pone Kingpetch." Like the former Thai world flyweight champion, he is far more a boxer than puncher. On this night his skills were considerable, and he not only amazed Griman, but the Thai fans as well.

(2-13-94)

Joe Koizumi

Wilfredo Vasquez KO 1 Yuichi Kasai

Tokyo, Japan: Hard-punching Puerto Rican Vasquez, 122, retained the WBA junior featherweight title for the sixth time, displaying awesome power in dropping Japan's Kasai, 122, three times en route to an unexpectedly quick stoppage at 2:05 of the opening round at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.



Vasquez worked quickly in Japan

Rated second, the previously unbeaten Kasai, who is younger than the champion, taller, and possesses a longer reach, climbed through the ropes as the favorite. But the 33-year-old Vasquez opened with a right cross that surprised the challenger and drove him to the canvas. Kasai easily beat the count of referee Enzo Montero (Venezuela), but was again downed, this time by a right uppercut. Kasai, 24, rose once more, only to be pummelled by a barrage of blows. Montero was left with no choice but to intervene.

The judges were Lou Tabat (USA), Bob Watson (USA), and Oswaldo Sanchez (Venezuela).

Kasai, 18-1-1 (12), had qualified for the title try by easily beating Jerome Coffee and drawing with Latin American champion Abraham Torres. He is the prized pupil of powerful Japanese promoter/manager Akihiko Honda. Vasquez improved to 39-6-3 (31).

(3-2-94)

Joe Koizumi

Kennedy McKinney KO 5 Jose Rincones

Hammanskraal, South Africa: IBF junior featherweight champion McKinney, 121¾, Memphis, Tennessee, did very little for four rounds, then burst into action in the fifth and scored a kayo over Venezuela's Rincones, 121, before an estimated crowd of 3,000 at the Carousel Casino Resort. It was McKinney's fourth defense.

Over the first four rounds, McKinney punched short. Rincones didn't help matters by boxing on the retreat, and on the odd occasion storming in to throw wild punches that were easily avoided.

The fight was not up to world-class standards and looked more like a sparring session.

Midway through the fifth, Rincones, 19-2-2 (10), decided to stop running and trade punches with his back to the ropes. The 28-year-old McKinney, 26-0-1 (16), was able to score with some solid rights to the head. Instead of again moving, Rincones, 28, remained planted—until a combination knocked him flat on his back. He was counted out by referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa).

McKinney will next defend against Welcome Ncita, from whom he won the title in December 1992. On the undercard, Ncita prepped for the rematch by knocking out American veteran Kenny Mitchell in the second round.

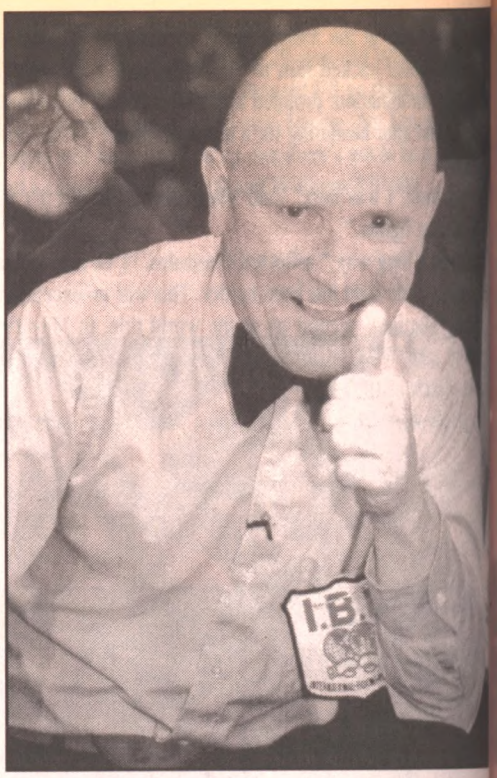
(2-19-94)

Ron Jackson ■

Camera Clicks

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

In recent months, WBC light heavyweight champion Jeff Harding has found himself behind the eight ball, remaining inactive because of a variety of injuries and promotional problems.



Nevada referee Mills Lane is always ready to "get it on." Lane recently worked Gianfranco Rosi-Vincent Pettway, his 72nd world title fight.

Winning the IBF junior welterweight title hasn't changed Jake Rodriguez, who still works as a motorcycle mechanic in Brentwood, New York.

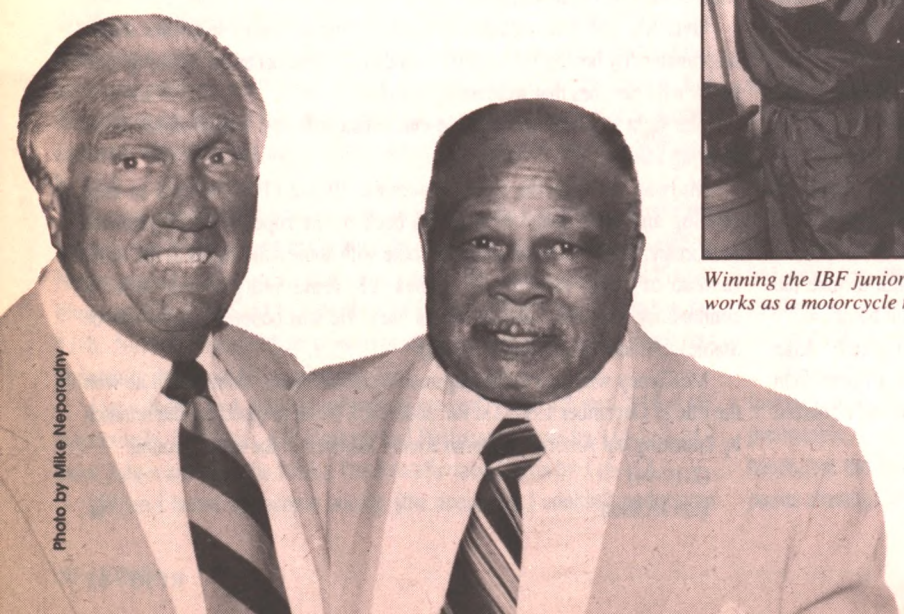


Photo by Mike Neporadny

Spotted in Los Angeles: Former light heavyweight champions Joey Maxim and Archie Moore. More than 40 years ago, "The Ol' Mongoose" defeated Maxim in three consecutive world title fights.

Talk about a power table! Seated at the WBC convention in Las Vegas (from l.) Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Emanuel Steward, Thomas Hearns, and Sugar Ray Leonard. We presume they talked about the weather.

Photo by Abe Hochheiser

Former world lightweight champions Ike Williams and Rodolfo Gonzalez look as if they can still make 135 pounds. Williams reigned from 1945 to '51, and Mexico's Gonzalez from 1972 to '74.

Can you guess Michael Dokes' weight? We're scared to try. This recent photo suggests the former heavyweight champion is working toward a comeback. Provide your own punchline.

Their half-smiles made for a nice photo, but we'd prefer middleweight champions Roy Jones (IBF) and Gerald McClellan (WBC) trade punches, not handshakes.

De La Hoya

(Continued from page 37)

tains rimming the L.A. Basin, De La Hoya weighed in at 128¾ for Bredahl, who was an even 130. Both men stand 5'10", but alongside De La Hoya, Bredahl looked far smaller.

"If he would stand there, I could have put him down easily with my power," De La Hoya said. He vowed he was "never ever going to fight a southpaw again."

Even though he was clearly confused by his opponent's southpaw style, Olympic gold medalist De La Hoya once again showed skill, strength, and great promise. He had trouble cutting off the ring, but Bredahl was crafty and determined to survive.

When De La Hoya, 12-0 (11), feels ready to go after tougher opposition, there should be some terrific fights. But until then, his corner would serve him well by nixing all the talk of his being the best.

The Olympic itself may be, like George Patton, a magnificent anachronism. It claims to be the only remaining auditorium built specifically for boxing. Indeed, seats are relatively close to the ring. Tradition is worth plenty. Dempsey himself dedicated the building in 1924. But in the last 70 years, the boxing game has learned new tricks, sometimes defined as progress. And there the new Olympic was wanting.

It had no clocks, and no one ever knew when a round would end. The ring card girls didn't show up until the Toney-Littles fight, so in the prelims the fans couldn't be sure what round it was. Michael Buffer looked spiffy in his tux, but the acoustics were so bad he might as well have been reading recipes. There were no 10-second lights in the corners. And the seats on the floor had no risers, which made for a lot of strained necks.

Moreover, boxing fans are rarely mistaken for Ozzie and Harriet, but the neighborhood around the Olympic is so tough, guys practically held hands walking back to their cars. It won't be easy to lure Mr. and Mrs. Suburbia to its shows, which is exactly what boxing needs to do.

The Great Western Forum, in nearby Inglewood, also puts on regular cards, and it's not at all certain both venues can survive. Officially, at least, the Forum, which sometimes features Arum's Top Rank fighters, is friendly. "If they can help generate more interest in boxing in Southern California," said Forum publicist John Beyrooty, "then it's better for everybody."

Opening night at the Olympic got terrific advance play in the local media. The week before, the *Los Angeles Times* ran a big, friendly front-page story and an affectionate column by revered sportswriter Jim Murray.

But Arum still couldn't fill the 7,600 seats. Claiming attendance of more than 5,000, he said there was no sellout because ticket prices were too high for a show that was aired by HBO with no local blackout. He promised to cut prices for the rest of the season, with balcony seats starting at $15.

"You could feel the electricity in here," he said. Sometimes boxing promoters get so excited they tell the truth. ■

Ivan G. Goldman is a freelance writer based in Encinitas, California.

Rosi

(Continued from page 39)

...al of Italy, is more than willing to continue ...ade a box of sweets, even a *big* box, for a ...n King's cards. He earned $245,000 for the ...way fight, the 11th defense of his second ... It was the second-highest purse of his 16- ...r career. He said he was paid more for his ...nd title fight with Gilbert Dele, but wouldn't ...l the amount.

Eleven of Rosi's 16 world title fights have ...e in Italy, where his popularity as an athlete ...rpassed only by Olympic alpine skiing ...pion Alberto Tomba. But most of the recent ...or cards have been subsidized by the ...rnment, and a recession has dried the money ...

"We can't have a fight like this [the Pettway ...ense] in Italy right now," he explained. ...mething like this just doesn't happen. The ...son I was off 14 months was that I'm 36, and ...difficult for me to find a fight that pays well. I ...constantly training, and I have never lost my ...est in the sport. But I'm a world champion, ...getting the right money is always a factor ...me. Fortunately, Don King came up with the ...figures for the Pettway fight.

"Would you believe after all these years, I ...get goose bumps when I see and feel the ...e boxing gets in the United States? I love ...g Italian and living in Italy, but in Italy, we ...m of boxing being what it is in the United ...s."

Rosi has never beaten a big-name opponent, ...he is awkward and difficult to watch. But ...reigned longer than any junior middleweight ...pion in history, and his skills are ...stakable. He is clever and sneaky-fast, and ...been equally successful against boxers and ...gers. All that's missing is a big punch. Call ...the wizard without a wallop.

After reigning as European welterweight and ...or middleweight champion, Rosi moved up in ...s and in October 1987 surprised defending ...BC 154-pound champion Lupe Aquino. He ...cessfully defended against Duane Thomas, ...en was outclassed by Donald Curry, who took ...e title by 10th-round TKO in July 1988.

His second run has been far more prosperous. ...e took the IBF title by upsetting Darrin Van ...orn in July 1989 (his first fight in the USA) and ...as defended against, among others, Troy Waters, Van Horn, Rene Jacquot, and Dele. But he's been frustrated by his inability to secure a title fight against one of the division's other champions.

"It hurt when Simon Brown knocked out [defending WBC champion] Terry Norris because promoters on both sides of the ocean were working on getting us together," said Rosi. "I definitely want to unify the title before I quit. If Norris doesn't win the title back, then maybe it's Brown or [WBA champion] Julio Cesar Vasquez. Those could also be big, big money fights in the States."

First, King, Rosi, and the IBF have agreed there will be a rematch with Pettway, probably in June or July. Their bout in March started with promise, but ended in an unsatisfying technical draw.

Rosi, 154, is most unorthodox, and two minutes into the first round, Pettway, a surprisingly light 150, was caught by a lead hook that, when combined with a subtle push, produced a flash knockdown. Pettway, 36-4-1 (29), Baltimore, Maryland, responded with some chippy infighting, and at one point, referee Mills Lane (USA), who was presumably ready to rumble, was struck by an errant left hook.

Both champion and challenger were guilty of infractions in the second round, and Lane issued several warnings. There was butting, holding and hitting, and hitting on the break. Fighting aggressively, Rosi, 57-3-1 (17), even punched Pettway from behind.

"I'm sorry Pettway came to fight a dirty fight," said Rosi.

Countered Pettway, "He does something to me, I do it right back to him."

Round three was different from the first two, with the junior middleweights trading on the inside. Pettway got the better of the exchanges by landing often with his right. Rosi rebounded in the fourth, walking to his opponent and initiating an extended toe-to-toe trade. Pettway couldn't match the champion's volume punching, though he did land a straight right that clearly landed after the bell.

Showing minimal respect for Pettway's power, Rosi continued in the role of aggressor in the fifth. He moved his opponent to a corner with right hands and survived Pettway's hooks without pause. Entering the sixth, Rosi was ahead on all three cards; Enzo Scala (Italy) and Keith MacDonald (USA) had it 49-45, and Sheila Martin (USA) 48-46. Still, it was a highly competitive contest, and, had the fight gone the

(Continued on page 56)

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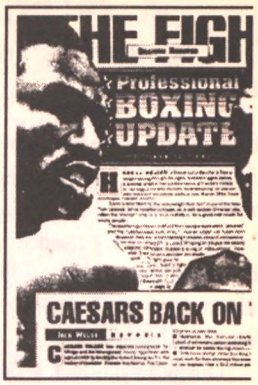

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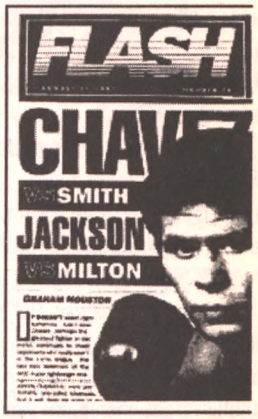

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Rosi

(Continued from page 55)

distance, it might have been a classic. Unfortunately, 15 seconds into the sixth, Rosi launched a hook and Pettway simultaneously fired a right. They clashed heads as Pettway followed through, and Rosi emerged with a hideous cut under his left eyebrow that would take 15 stitches to close.

"I threw a right hand, Rosi leaned it, and our heads hit," said Pettway. "I was just coming on. I was pressing the fight. The second half of the fight would have been mine. Next time, I'll definitely stop him."

"I want to do it again quick," said Rosi. "I'm disappointed because I know I was winning the fight. I wanted to go 12 rounds and make a spectacular performance for the people in Las Vegas."

That will have to wait. But King made it clear Rosi will be given another opportunity. In recent months, King has promoted all three junior middleweight champions, and assuming Rosi rejects Pettway the second time around, a unification bout just might materialize.

We can't even imagine how many boxes of chocolate that would be worth. ■

Jack Welsh is THE RING'S correspondent in Las Vegas.

Benn

(Continued from page 42)

bashed him when he had been knocked down, and he flagrantly attempted to bash him when referee Carlos Padilla had already applied the three-knockdown rule. Definitely more Dark Destroyer than, say, "Artful Artisan."

Of course, Benn had previously dealt similarly on this side of the Atlantic with a questionable caliber of opposition he described unflatteringly as "Mexican road sweepers." Anthony "The Terminator" Logan had briefly threatened to redirect the Benn juggernaut by pummeling him into a perilous position in the second round. Virtually out on his feet, Benn swung wildly with his left, Logan was transmitted to cloud-cuckooland, and order was restored to the script.

A more serious stumbling block emerged when Benn encountered "The Force," Michael Watson. Utilizing a tight defense and counterpunching incisively, Watson exposed Benn's shortcomings and caused him to consume quite an amount of his own verbiage. Humiliated, Benn sacked his trainer, Brian Lynch, and shut shop to set up camp in America.

"Michael taught me a valuable lesson," said Benn. "I was beginning to believe my own hype. I wasn't being myself. I was more interested in playing to my image than concentrating on what I should have been, the fighting. I went over to America to get away from all the hassle and rediscover my way."

Insulated from distractions, Benn resurrected his career with victories in the States over Doug DeWitt and Barkley. He then endured the ultimate ignominy, losing to the man he loathed, Eubank.

"It was difficult to come to terms with the Eubank defeat," he said. "Retirement was a consideration. But it kept eating away at me that I had to come back and beat this guy. Winning the WBC title was one way of getting at him because I hold a more prestigious belt. But everyone knows I beat him in the rematch, and that peeves him more."

The two contests against Eubank graphically illustrate the transformation in Benn. During the first bout, he fought like a man who was late for a bus, while in the second, he fought with the assuredness that he could always hang around until the next ride came along. Impetuosity contributed significantly to his downfall in the initial encounter, whereas a more considered method earned him a draw from the judges and the verdict of most observers in the rematch.

Benn's bobbing and weaving nullified much of Eubank's effectiveness to the extent that The Dark Destroyer was never really in a compromising position. Considering that most observers expected Eubank to stop him, his display was fairly astounding. And all this from a man who used to lead with his face.

There was nothing reckless about his fifth defense of the title, against Wharton on February 26 at Earls Court 2. Benn methodically tackled his task in a highly professional manner and emerged as unscathed as in the days when he was turning over those Mexican road sweepers.

"I thought to myself, *I ain't gonna go out there and burn myself out*," said Benn. "I'm 30. He's young and has plenty of time to come again. He'll get back. Wharton is the toughest I've fought."

Wharton, 167½, York, England, offered stout heart and granite jaw, but barely worthwhile punch during the opening four rounds. He was aware of the spotlight for the first time in his career, and if he didn't freeze, he certainly stiffened. Preoccupied with blocking Benn's powerful shots, he did little before round five, most conspicuously keeping his patented left hook under wraps.

Wharton's manager, Mickey Duff, said later, "Henry gave away those first four rounds. Benn didn't win them. He didn't have to."

After being nailed early in the fifth, Wharton, 18-1-1 (13), enjoyed his peak moment just before the bell, when Benn, 38-2-1 (32), fell to the floorboards. The champion insisted he had been pushed, but a left hook had unsteadied his legs and referee Tony Perez (USA) ruled it a knockdown.

"Wharton never hurt me," Benn later claimed. "Don't get me wrong, he's strong. I could feel his strength. But he never hurt me with a punch. The referee made a mistake about the knockdown."

Knockdown or no knockdown, it certainly roused Wharton's spirit, and he purposefully marched after Benn, 168, London, in the sixth. Benn slipped most of Wharton's punches, however, and landed punishing shots himself. The best punch of the fight was a perfect right in the eighth that disconnected Wharton's knees. Somehow he manfully managed to remain upright.

Over the final three rounds the Yorkshireman required a big punch to turn matters his way, but however hard he tried, Benn cleverly ducked and dived.

Though clearly tired, Benn retained sufficient savvy to see out the remaining time without undue difficulty.

Adrian Morgan (Wales) scored 116-113, Sid Nathan (England) 116-114, and Rudy Ortega (USA) 117-112, all for Benn. THE RING had it 116-113 for the champion.

Benn has now equaled Dave McAuley's British record of five successful world title defenses. His performance was, rather justifiably, hailed the most competent of his career, but certain sections of the British press used it spuriously as evidence to proclaim him the best super middleweight in the world. This view is sufficiently overblown to substantiate showering these people with a bucketful of cold water and then clattering them over the head with the bucket in an attempt to help them place things in perspective.

Wharton is a promising fighter who was

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ring a world-class test for the first time and
n't get a meaningful punch off until round
. There are more seasoned and dangerous
paigners out there. Benn may have
nsformed his style to good effect but
damental flaws still exist that no amount of
metic correction will adequately compensate

First, the problem with his chin won't
denly evaporate because he bobs and weaves
re. True, bobbing and weaving will cause him
e hit less frequently, but when he is hit he will
ain equally vulnerable. In the final 10 seconds
their rematch, butter-fisted Italian Galvano
ringly stunned Benn with a jab, not the
kly kind on the end of a syringe, but the
-forward kind on the end of a fist. If the
ch had connected half-a-minute earlier, Benn
ght have been stopped.

Then there's the stamina problem. Benn tired
ently in the Eubank rematch and the Wharton
t. Both were contested at a brisk pace, but
n seemed more out of puff at the end than
ir adversary.

Lastly, the possibility remains of him
rting to type. He did against Lou Gent last
r and was rocked to his pants by a disturbing
mber of crudely delivered punches.

A strong case can be argued that Benn is
rently the second-best 168-pounder in the
rld. It is one thing, however, to deliver a
ster performance against Wharton, and quite a
re daunting proposition if the opponent were
mes Toney.

Benn may have lost some of that burning
ensity that brutally characterized his earlier
hts, but he is still capable of taking us for a
rney on the wild side. For as long as he is,
'll be more than happy to stick around for the
ride. ■

Brian Doogan is THE RING'S correspondent in Great Britain.

Hamed

(Continued from page 16)

ge of 18 he was eager to turn pro and signed
nder Ingle.

Immediately, Hamed went in for a flashy
yle, adopting some flamboyant maneuvers that
ake Chris Eubank seem decidedly introverted.
is most conspicuous gimmick is a somersault
er the ropes to enter the ring. And after scoring the inevitable victory, he'll perform forward- and back-flips as effortlessly as any world-class gymnast.

"I believe I have a gift from God," says Hamed, "and I'll use it to the best of my ability. I may seem arrogant, but that's because of my strong religious belief. I have never tasted alcohol, and I don't eat the meat of a pig. I fear no one. I can do the art."

It is an art he has performed so magnificently that he's already considered superior to British champion Drew Docherty. In fact, Hamed is tentatively scheduled to face European titleholder Vincenzo Belcastro in June and believes he'll be prepared for a world title shot by the end of the year.

"I've mastered the art of bodypunching," Hamed states matter-of-factly. "And I can even attack when I'm counterpunching. I go out in the first round and show the crowd and my opponent how good I am. The second round is strictly business."

Half of his contests have reached a swift and precise conclusion in round two, when the Sheffield southpaw works over what soon becomes a demoralized foe. It is therefore not surprising that Yemen, the homeland of his father, transmits all of his bouts on national TV and considers him an honorable son.

Yemen lies near the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and has a population of approximately 13 million. At the request of the president, Hamed visited to box a number of exhibitions, one of which drew 10,000 intrigued spectators.

"The people were great," he said. "I was sparring Ryan Rhodes, a senior [amateur] contender, and all these people turned up to watch. The president presented me with a £10,000 Rolex as a token of appreciation. I have so many Yemeni supporters and so much British support, but I feel no pressure. I am confident of my ability."

Possessing perfect poise and mesmerizing hand speed, Hamed is a joy to watch even while training. One outing on the mitts involves him throwing 38 punches with seven different foot movements in *eight* seconds. The duration you accept at Ingle's word, but the punches are thrown so fast they are indistinct, and the footwork is beautiful as he maintains perfect balance.

"Now can you believe that?" asks Hamed.

When the topic turns—almost inevitably—to the NABF bantamweight titleholder, Ireland's Wayne McCullough, Hamed talks phil-

(Continued on page 58)

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Hamed

(Continued from page 57)

osophically but predictably, with the usual confidence.

"I have talked with Wayne," he said. "I know how he thinks. He has a great work rate, but he's just an arm puncher. He's not in my class. In the amateurs you can survive being an arm puncher, but not among the pros. I can mentally destroy McCullough in four or five rounds and physically in six or seven."

A McCullough-Hamed encounter is a natural and may well prove to be a world title affair. Depending on how the two fare through '94, anticipation of their clash among British and Irish fans may reach Benn-Eubank or Lewis-Bruno proportions. Should they meet for a world title, Hamed is convinced he will secure the first of many championship belts.

"I want to be a multiple champion," he proclaimed, "and eventually I want to establish myself as a legend.

"Then I can stop shouting my mouth off," he adds impishly.

Age and maturity will undoubtedly mellow his manner, but for the moment young Naseem remains a tremendously talented prospect with real attitude. He has absolutely no doubts about his fighting worth. Then again, at 20, does anyone have too many doubts about anything? ■

Brian Doogan is THE RING'S correspondent in Great Britain.

What If...

(Continued from page 29)

hang up the gloves, Patterson was in a position to capitalize.

Following Marciano's retirement, the powers that dictated policy in the late-'50s decided that former Olympic champion Patterson would meet the venerable Moore in a bout to determine The Rock's successor. On November 30, 1956, Patterson became the youngest man to win the heavyweight crown by stopping Moore in the fifth round.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

After a six-month layoff, heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano has reached a decision: He will not retire, as had been anticipated by members of the press. Instead, he will defend against Floyd Patterson at Yankee Stadium on September 27, 1956. Though Patterson's manager, Cus D'Amato, is reluctant to make the match, a publicity ploy comes back to haunt him. Earlier in the year, D'Amato published an open letter in several newspapers, challenging every top heavyweight, including Marciano. Though the letter wasn't taken seriously at the time, it became a factor in the negotiations. D'Amato's ego, combined with Patterson's apparently sincere belief that he's far too fast for Marciano, results in signatures on the dotted lines. Marciano's manager, the tight-fisted Weill, gives in to D'Amato by agreeing to a

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entage split of 37-23, instead of the mary 40-20. No matter; the IBC expects revenues.

Indeed, Marciano-Patterson captures the 's interest, and on the night of the fight, a boisterous throng anxiously awaits the of the main event. Marciano climbs the ropes as only a 2-1 favorite. (In his ous defense, he had been 4-1 over Archie re.) Patterson looked impressive in ing Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson and, at 21, the quick-fisted challenger is 12 years ger than his opponent. A good number of noscenti believe Patterson is capable of ng an upset.

THE RING's Nat Loubet won't go as far as dict a Patterson victory, but he suggests like so many great champions, Marciano be hanging around for one fight too . As the fight progresses, Loubet appears prophetic.

HE FIGHT

Rounds 1-4: Marciano wins round one on basis of aggression. Patterson dances nd the ring, almost running at times, and ly avoids The Rock's rushes. The llenger counters but never leads, and snakes ccasional jab at the ever-advancing ciano. Marciano lands the only significant , a winging right. Patterson establishes ab in the second, and constantly beats ciano to the punch in the third and fourth. quickly moves away whenever Marciano pts to lure him into a slugfest. At the end e fourth, Marciano shows uncharacteristic ration at his inability to cut off the ring.

Rounds 5-8: Marciano starts a shift of entum by landing thudding bodypunches e fifth. Patterson inexplicably limits his ement in the sixth and seventh, and the mpion wins back a couple of rounds. ing in ring center, Patterson capitalizes on superior hand speed and scores with sharp ters. He also manages to block most of ciano's roundhouse blows. Still, Marciano ubtedly the harder puncher. A reminder power comes at the end of the eighth, a left to the ribcage folds Patterson over. e bell, the challenger is smothering ciano's followup attack.

Rounds 9-12: Patterson dominates the h and 10th and opens a cut over Marciano's t eye. While the cut bleeds freely, it does hinder the champion's vision. The 11th and 2th are the most exciting rounds of the fight. Marciano decelerates, and Patterson's confidence grows in proportion. Patterson is outpunching his foe three to one, though The Rock's blows remain heavier. The fighters rock each other and begin to display the wounds of what has become a war. Patterson shows considerable swelling under his right eye and is breathing heavily as he returns to his corner at the bell ending the 12th. Marciano is bleeding from the cut over his eye and his nose.

Round 13: The round starts like those immediately preceding it, with Patterson jabbing from his peekaboo stance, moving to his left, and then setting himself and countering. Much of the snap is gone from his blows, however, and his legs now lack spring. An uppercut, a punch Marciano has been trying to land throughout the fight, splits Patterson's gloves. Patterson falls back two steps and crashes to the canvas as Marciano misses with a wild followup right. Marciano falls, too, tripped by the legs of the challenger. After untangling the fighters, referee Zack Clayton picks up the count at six, and Patterson rises at nine. Ringsiders later report a lapse of at least six seconds from Patterson's fall to the advent of the count. But it's a moot point.

Marciano is nothing if not a first-rate finisher. Clearly hurt, Patterson tries to cover up, but Marciano mauls him. When Patterson launches a left hand, Marciano responds with a right cross than instantly brings back memories of his title-winning kayo of Jersey Joe Walcott. Patterson is smashed to the canvas and counted out at the 1:12 mark. After 12 rounds, he leads on the cards by scores of 117-114, 116-114, and 115-114.

THE AFTERMATH

Marciano has nothing but praise for his conquered foe: "He's a real good fighter, Patterson is. He's got fast hands and can punch some, too. It was a good fight. And he taught me something." When asked what the young Patterson could possibly have taught the heavyweight champion of the world, Marciano quips, "He taught me that I'm getting too old for this game."

Interviewed the next day, Patterson is his typically unassuming self. "I'm grateful for having received the chance to fight a great champion," he says. "I can only imagine what Rocky must have hit like in his prime. I didn't embarrass myself."

Marciano spends the next six months with his family and friends, hunting and fishing and recovering from the grueling fight. A Boston sportswriter asks who he'll fight next. "Who's left?" is the champion's simple reply.

No one is left. Names like John Summerlin and John Holman are either non-contenders or lack drawing power. Newer names, like Harold Carter, Tommy Jackson, and a big Swede named Ingemar Johansson, aren't established or figure to be badly overmatched, even against a soon-to-be 34-year-old Marciano. Sonny Liston, a young destroyer, fought only once in 1956—and would be inactive for all of 1957. Another promising heavyweight, the aforementioned Eddie Machen, has started exhibiting a safety-first approach, and pundits are questioning his desire, though not his talent.

On December 15, 1957, at the Lexington Hotel in New York City, Marciano, in the company of wife Barbara, daughter Mary Ann, Weill, publicist Murray Goodman, and longtime friend and second Allie Columbo, stands behind the podium. He leans toward the microphone and says, "I'm retiring from boxing." There is no need for a lengthy explanation. He leaves with a perfect record of 50-0. The heavyweight title is still his, if only in spirit.

HOW HISTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN CHANGED

While a Marciano-Patterson title fight would have been far more competitive than most fans would think, it wouldn't have had much of an effect on history. A possible scenario would play out like this: After Marciano's retirement, Patterson wins a close but unanimous decision over Machen to fill the vacant title. After a safe defense against one of a half-dozen possible opponents, Patterson schedules a defense against Johansson, who ... Well, you know the rest.

A different scenario, one in which Marciano *doesn't* retire after defeating Patterson, would create a bigger ripple. Logic dictates Marciano would be very active. Knockout wins over Hurricane Jackson and Johansson increase his win total and bank account, but a rematch against Patterson in 1958 results in the crowning of a new champion.

A Marciano-Liston matchup would have made no sense because of the age factor. Liston didn't become a title threat until 1959, when Marciano was 36. Had they met then, Liston would have done the unthinkable—he'd have stopped "The Brockton Blockbuster." ■

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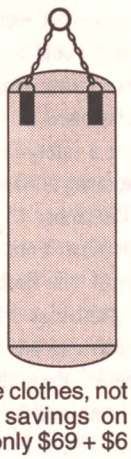

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Donald—Williams

(Continued from page 31)

trainer, Janks Morton. "You can't tell me he didn't see any of them."

Williams, 15-1 (12), wobbled again after a right bounced off his chin in the eighth, and from that point on he seemed to give up hope of winning.

"After Donald hurt him with the right, Jeremy couldn't be effective," said Wallau. "He was so worried about defense, he wouldn't let his hands go. And once he realized he couldn't win, he went into a survival mode."

Donald twisted Williams' face sideways with another right at the start of the 12th and final round and, confident victory was his, showboated and shuffled his way to the bell. Imagine his surprise when it was announced Carol Castellano scored the fight 114-114. Fortunately, Chuck Giampa (117-111) and Jerry Roth (116-112) paid attention to what had transpired inside the ring, and justice prevailed.

"You didn't have to be an expert to know who won the fight; just look at their faces afterward," said Steve Nelson, who co-manages Donald with Robert Mittleman.

Donald, 13-0 (10), was back to his bombastic self after the fight, singing his own praises like an Ali wannabe.

"A lot of people said I couldn't punch, but I have a right hand that will kayo an elephant," he proclaimed. "I didn't knock him out, because he taunted me at the weigh-in and I wanted to punish him. I'm the uncrowned heavyweight champion of the world."

Okay, so Donald isn't particularly original when it comes to ballyhoo, but credit is due. He's come a long way in just 13 professional fights, and while he doesn't exactly get the juices flowing, there have been some encouraging signs.

"The thing that impressed me the most about Donald is the way he's made the adjustments needed to be effective as a pro," said Wallau. "He listened to his trainer and learned. That's rare these days. A lot of guys reach a certain level and never get any better. I think Donald has the ability to grow as a fighter."

Happily, the itinerary Nelson, Mittleman, and Morton have mapped out for Donald will give him ample time to mature. The plan calls for a world title shot by this time next year. As we went to press, he was scheduled to fight Bert Cooper in mid-April. It's a savvy choice. His unpredictable opponent is on the skids, but still enough of a name to garner some publicity—and still dangerous enough to make it interesting.

Morton, who has also worked with Sugar Ray Leonard and Razor Ruddock, is understandably enthusiastic.

"Larry has the best legs in boxing," asserted the trainer. "He's one of the few heavyweights around who can dance for 10 or 12 rounds. The Williams fight opened up everybody's eyes to the fact Larry Donald is for real. By the time he's finished, he'll rate right up there with Ali and Holmes."

Easy, Janks, let's not get carried away. Any resemblance between Donald and the aforementioned duo is strictly circumstantial. Donald still has a lot to prove. Beating Williams was a strong step, but we can't be sure if it was a case of Donald being that good or Williams being that bad. But even giving the winner the benefit, his showing wasn't nearly good enough to make fans stop counting the day until Mike Tyson gets out of the slammer.

"Donald can't be considered a world-class fighter because he's never beaten a world-class fighter," pointed out Wallau. "The question is what will happen when he fights a guy who can walk through his punches, someone who can shake it off and keep coming after him. That's when we'll know what he's really made of."

And maybe that's when we'll feel that rush. But for now, let's put the rave reviews on hold, cancel the reservation to the Hall of Fame in Canastota, and keep our eyes peeled. Because when the next great heavyweight comes along, there won't be any doubt about it. You'll feel it in your bones, know it in your gut, and feel the buzz in the air.

It can't happen too soon.

McCaffrey

(Continued from page 45)

Hughes "The Dangerous Blacksmith." McCaffrey's speed, conditioning, and powerful right hand offset his smallish size—he stood no more than 5'9" and weighed less than 170 pounds.

In August 1884, Sullivan and McCaffrey sparred at a benefit for Boston Alderman Tom Denny. Sullivan stumbled through the exhibition totally drunk. McCaffrey realized the title could be his if he could talk Sullivan into an official fight.

October 1884, McCaffrey coaxed Charlie ell into fighting by paying him $1,200. He ed Mitchell over four rounds, Queensberry , at Madison Square Garden and became the g challenger.

The champion then agreed to fight McCaffrey match scheduled for April 2, 1885, in delphia. However, before that bout could off, both fighters were arrested for ring to engage in a prize fight. Sullivan ded the match after posting $10,000 to his release.

In June, the still-boozing Sullivan beat "Irish Jack Burke in Chicago, then agreed to meet affrey for the title at Chester Driving Park, a ack seven miles north of Cincinnati. The n agreement provided the fight would be ix rounds or to the finish," under the nsberry Rules, in a 24-foot square ring with -ounce or lighter gloves. Sullivan, a bloated pounds for the Burke fight, sequestered f, ostensibly to train.

McCaffrey set up camp at the Bowery, a ouse where then-champion Tom Allen ed for his 1876 match against Joe Goss. affrey trained for a finish fight, rising every at 5 a.m. for a session with dumbbells, wed by a 15-mile run. After a breakfast of house steaks and ale, he would hit a heavy bag. The day before the fight, McCaffrey down on his training—he ran only 11 miles! entered the fight in the best shape of his life, ing about 165 pounds.

Sullivan finally arrived in Cincinnati on st 27, two days before the match. The lines of his arrival proclaimed the stunning "Sullivan Is Sober." Sullivan not only was r, but also in excellent shape, having ed down to between 205 and 210 pounds the assistance of "The Iron Man Of Sport," iam Muldoon, a former New York City eman. Speaking of his condition, Sullivan ined, "I would not have thought it necessary in at all to meet McCaffrey, but as I have her match to follow soon, I thought I would for both."

The day after his arrival, Sullivan was ted at the instigation of the Law and Order ue and brought before the Court of Common under a municipal statute that authorized citizen to call upon a constable to arrest the ipals of a planned prize fight. Judge Huston ail at $1,000 and ordered Sullivan to show he next day, the morning of the bout. Huston requested expert witnesses to distinguish a

(Continued on page 62)

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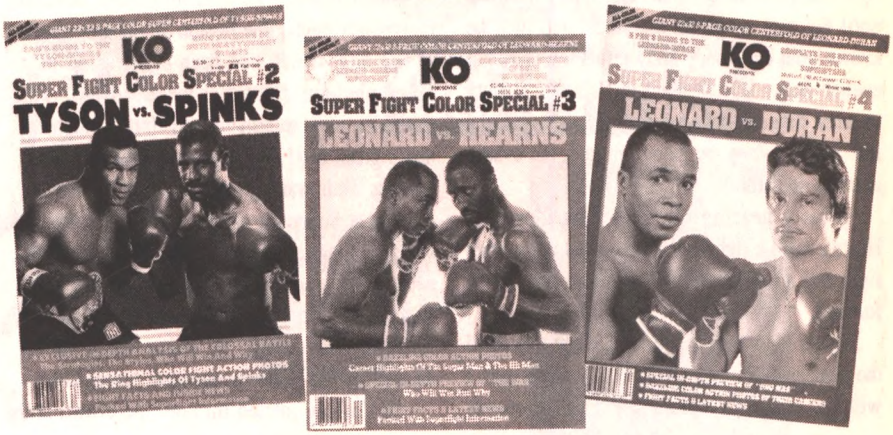

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McCaffrey

(Continued from page 61)

glove match from a bare-knuckle prize fight and to explain the Queensberry Rules.

Afraid of another cancellation like the one in Philadelphia, McCaffrey went into hiding rather than be arrested. His manager, Billy O'Brien, defended him to the press: "Dominick wants to fight and not to be arrested. He will stay in hiding until the time to go on the stage, and then he knows what everybody knows, that there are not enough police or constables in Hamilton County to arrest him. He does not seek to evade a battle, like Sullivan does, by being arrested, but evades arrest to do battle."

After a hearing the following morning, Huston ruled a fight with gloves was not a prize fight and allowed the championship bout to go forward.

Hours before the fight, McCaffrey described the strategy he intended to use: "I feel first-rate. I will stay away from the champion for two rounds and then go at him. I feel confident that I will whip the champion today."

Sullivan responded typically: "I'll do him up in a couple of rounds."

On August 29, 1885, about 15,000 people crowded into the Chester Driving Park. Most of the spectators and reporters were under the impression that if Sullivan did not score a knockout inside of six rounds, McCaffrey would be declared the winner. As evidenced by his training, McCaffrey believed he had an agreement with Sullivan to fight to the finish.

Shortly after 5 p.m., and after several preliminary bouts, The Boston Strong Boy strode to the ring, which had been constructed on a raised platform in front of the grandstand. The champion wore a flesh-colored shirt, white hose, and a green belt. He sat in his corner, appearing nervous while waiting for McCaffrey to show up. Finally, at Sullivan's urging, Muldoon, who was serving as master of ceremonies, cried out, "Will someone be kind enough to go after McCaffrey?" Just then, a horse and carriage came tearing through the crowd. A cheer went up as McCaffrey and his entourage were recognized.

McCaffrey jostled through the crowd and sprang to the platform. He wore a gray suit his ring outfit and looked decidedly smaller Sullivan. The view on McCaffrey's cha improved when he stripped down to his figh togs—a flesh-colored, armless silk shirt flesh-colored knee-breeches—and revealed stunning physique.

At this early point in ring history, Queensberry Rules included the proviso t except for the main changes (adding gloves requiring three-minute rounds, a one-minute period, and a 10-count for a knockout), " contest in all other respects [was] to be gover by the revised rules of the London Prize Rin For the Sullivan-McCaffrey bout, this meant e fighter would name an umpire, and the umpi would choose a referee, who was to "withhold opinion till appealed to by the umpires."

McCaffrey named O'Brien as his umpi Sullivan selected Dan Murphy. O'Brien th proposed a number of well-known sporting m for the role of referee, but Sullivan's man insist on William Tate of Toledo, Ohio. After protracted argument, O'Brien yielded and Ta was named referee. Without objection, P

(Continued on page 6

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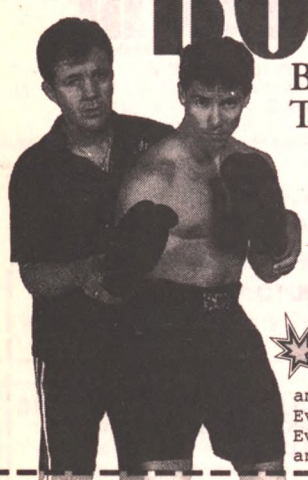

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3) Three times
4) Ray Leonard never defeated Roberto Duran

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4) Air Force

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McCaffrey

(Continued from page 62)

Donahue, who had explained the Queensberry Rules to Judge Huston, acted as timekeeper.

In the first round, Sullivan charged McCaffrey, who fended off the larger man by circling and jabbing. Sullivan could not catch the challenger, and McCaffrey ended the round with several stinging left-handers to Sullivan's face.

By the middle of the next round, Sullivan, enraged by McCaffrey's evasive tactics, stopped and shouted, "Why the hell don't you force the fighting?" McCaffrey retorted, "You're the man to do that. You said you could whip me with a couple of punches. You can't whip me in 20 years, you big sucker." McCaffrey punctuated his remarks with two cracking right hands to Sullivan's sputtering maw.

Sullivan's frustration and anger continued to mount in the third. At one point, as Sullivan attempted to corner his man, O'Brien yelled for McCaffrey to escape. Annoyed, Sullivan leaned over the ropes and feinted as if to belt O'Brien at ringside.

Sullivan began to land in the fourth round and drew first blood when he cut McCaffrey on the left cheek with a right-hand swing. Moments later, he smashed and bloodied McCaffrey's lower lip with a left hook. Emboldened at the sight of blood, Sullivan rushed McCaffrey to the ropes and began to pound away. The timekeeper called for the end of the round, but Sullivan continued to punch for another 20 seconds. Some believed McCaffrey should have won the fight on a foul, but instead of claiming it, McCaffrey fought back, driving Sullivan across the ring.

By the fifth round, both fighters were winded but still fighting at a fast pace. Sullivan closed the distance, and as McCaffrey attempted to clinch, the champion landed a short punch that sent his foe to the floor. Sullivan's umpire called "time" in an effort to have McCaffrey counted out. Rather than count or consult the timekeeper, however, the referee sent both fighters to their corners after only 1:40 of the round.

McCaffrey came out for the sixth round appearing fresh and cool; Sullivan, although still strong, now fought with greater caution and was less willing to rush at McCaffrey. McCaffrey controlled the fight at long range as Sullivan began to wear down in the August heat. McCaffrey even taunted his opponent: "John, why don't you come and kill me with those two punches, as you blowed?" In response, Sullivan rushed at his man but couldn't land a meaningful punch. The crowd began exhorting McCaffrey to go for a knockout, but the challenger, clearly thinking in terms of a finish fight, continued to box rather than slug.

In the seventh round, McCaffrey again dominated at long range, punching to the face and stomach. In close, the fighters clinched without either landing any clean blows. At one point, a frustrated Sullivan wrestled McCaffrey to the ring floor. They got up and resumed sparring as Donahue called time, ending the round.

Sullivan's umpire and seconds now approached the referee and demanded a decision. The crowd, meanwhile, sent up waves of support for McCaffrey's effort, thinking he had won the title. For some unaccountable reason, the referee halted the bout and declared "Sullivan had the best of it." Muldoon immediately shouted to the crowd that Sullivan was the winner. With that announcement, McCaffrey began begging for at least one more round, while his brother Mike started slugging Sullivan's second, Arthur Chambers. As Chambers attempted to retaliate, Mike drew a pistol, and the challenger turned his attention to preventing his brother from killing someone. Several fights broke out in the crowd. Additional pistols were drawn, and just as a full-scale riot was about to break out, the ring platform collapsed. The crowd dispersed and everyone made their way back to Cincinnati where arguments about the fight would continue for days.

The great John L. Sullivan celebrated that night by flinging $10 bills toward the saloon ceiling and tossing champagne corks at the fluttering bills. The sullen McCaffrey ate a plate of oysters, then walked over to the office of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and posted forfeit money for an immediate rematch, with or without gloves.

At midnight, a reporter tracked down the referee, who was tanking up at Andy Gilligan's Saloon. Tate now stated that he had not yet given a decision, but had merely expressed his "opinion" that Sullivan had had the better of the match. By the next day, Tate, having made his way home to Toledo, had refined his story, claiming he had not seen the written agreement under which the fight had been fought, and could not "in consequence render a decision." He reiterated that he thought "Sullivan had the best of the fight so far as fighting points were concerned, but if the Boston boy was to knock out McCaffrey in six rounds, he failed, as the Pittsburgh lad came up smilingly every round."

A couple of days later, Tate rendered his decision, stating Sullivan was the winner in six rounds. Oddly, no mention was made of the seventh round.

Sullivan earned $5,864, or 60 percent of the gate. McCaffrey earned not a penny, although George Campbell, one of the promoters and the owner of Chester Driving Park, gave him $1,000.

McCaffrey claimed ever afterward that it was to be a fight to the finish, that only seven rounds had been fought, and that Sullivan had been lucky to get the decision. McCaffrey had only a few fights after the fall of 1885, when he inherited an Australian sheep ranch valued at more than $50,000. In 1888, he lost in 10 rounds to Jack Dempsey "The Nonpareil," and in 1898 he lost a four-round decision to future heavyweight champion James J. Corbett. He withdrew from public life and served for many years as boxing instructor at the Manhattan Athletic Club.

Dominick F. McCaffrey died in Pittsburgh on December 30, 1926. While Sullivan and so many of his successors were immortalized, McCaffrey is remembered only by the most diligent of historians, who realize how close he came to being the first heavyweight champion under the Queensberry Rules, or as we know boxing today.

Michael DeLisa is a freelance writer based in Woodbury, New York.

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Fiske On Fights

By Jack Fiske

Unless you follow boxing in the Midwest, chances are you've never heard of Peyton Sher. But the adorable twosome of Jose Sulaiman and Don King knows Sher very well. They probably wish they never met him.

The 70-year-old former insurance man from Kansas City, who was formerly known in boxing as the manager of late-'70s welterweight contender Tony Chiaverini, can be held largely responsible for deflating two of the most awesome fighters in recent ring history, and at the same time spoiling the meal tickets of promoter King and WBC President-for-life Sulaiman.

Sher was guru to 45-1 underdog Buster Douglas and manager John Johnson on that momentous day in Tokyo when Mike Tyson's unbeaten record and image went down the tubes.

In January, as co-manager, he brought a 17-1 underdog to Las Vegas, and Frankie Randall shocked the world with a decision victory over previously unbeaten Mexican icon Julio Cesar Chavez.

The twist in this tale is that Sher works as a matchmaker for King and coordinator for Showtime's boxing cards.

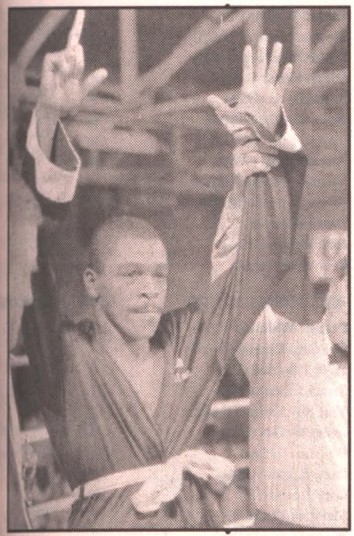
"Don has accepted it," Sher says of the two gigantic upsets. "I knocked off his two big-time money-winners. Before the Tokyo fight, I told Don that Buster had the style to beat Tyson, and he didn't like what I said. But he's been a gentleman about it all the way."

Call Sher a resurrectionist and he won't give you an argument. Pulling Douglas and Randall off the scrap heap and making them world champions against adversaries who were on the cusp of all-time greatness was no small feat.

"I had Douglas for six years before he went to Johnson, and I advised the manager," Sher continued. "I made every match for Buster after he lost to Mike 'The Giant' White, and I'll take the credit for getting him to Tokyo. After the Tyson-Ruddock fight blew up in Canada, I sneaked Douglas in, and I believed strongly that we would win by a knockout."

Sher manages Randall along with Dr. Dan Hale of Morristown, Tennessee. When Randall was released from prison after almost three years for selling drugs, he moved in with Hale. The co-managers, and particularly Sher, immediately began to revive his career. Randall's first performance, an eight-rounder in France against Panamanian southpaw Rodolfo Aguilar, was witnessed by King, who liked what he saw and signed Randall to a promotional contract.

Said Sher, "I kept moving him in small club fights, and I told Frankie I'd get him a title shot in three years." He was as good as his word, almost to the day.



Randall: It's been a long way back

"When I knew Randall, before prison, he was a good amateur, and even in losing to Primo Ramos [KO by 2] and Edwin Rosario [by half a point in England], he looked good," the manager said. "He could punch with either hand, had good hand and foot speed, and was not intimidated. I felt sure he would pull an upset [against Chavez] if the other guy had slipped just a little bit. I don't bet, but I told my wife to do so, and she did, getting 12-1."

***

Sometime before the end of the year, Orlando Canizales will break the all-time record of 15 consecutive successful defenses of the bantamweight title, held by Manuel Ortiz. The IBF champion, an excellent if underappreciated fighter, is at 14 and holding, and figures to make at least two more defenses this year.

The nitpickers will declare that Ortiz, a great fighter in the Fabulous Forties, holds another record, having made 19 successful defenses over the course of two reigns. Canizales has a way to go to equal that. But the Canizales fans can counter that while Ortiz' first reign lasted four years five months, Canizales will reach six years in July. Ortiz' reigns lasted a combined seven years seven months.

Ortiz never made a defense east of the Mississippi, preferring to campaign mostly in his home area of Southern California, where he was a big attraction. He did defend twice in Honolulu, once in Mexico, and once in Manila, and was dethroned by Vic Toweel in South Africa. Canizales, on the other hand, has defended five times in his native Texas, twice each in France and California, and once in New York, New Jersey, Montana, England, and South Africa.

In examining bantamweight champions, let's consider 5'11" Panama Al Brown, who held the title 17 days shy of six years and made 10 defenses, nine away from his adopted home of New York. (Former heavyweight champion Joe Louis holds the all-time record of 25 consecutive successful defenses. Featherweight great Abe Attell is runner-up with 19.)

It's difficult to compare champions of different eras. Canizales defends only three or four times a year, and does so against fighters you never heard of. There simply isn't much of a market for 118-pounders. Ortiz fought 12, 15 times a year, facing the best available competition. Leave it at this: By today's standards, Canizales has been a strong, active champion—whether he breaks Ortiz' records or not. ■

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of February

WBA
as of January

IBF
as of March

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	2	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	3	3
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	–	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	4	7	11
Joe Hipp (USA)	5	–	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	6	9	6
Larry Holmes (USA)	7	–	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	8	–	5
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	9	11	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	10	9
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	1	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	4	4
Herbie Hide (GB)	–	5	7
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	14	6	–
Alex Stewart (JAM)	18	8	–
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	8
Buster Mathis (USA)	15	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	5	8
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	10	–
Dennis Andries (GB)	3	–	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	4	6	9
Kenny Keene (USA)	5	8	11
Jade Scott (USA)	6	–	7
Adolpho Washington (USA)	7	–	4
Michael Gale (GB)	8	–	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	9	2	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	10	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	–	1	3
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	3	6
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	1
James Warring (USA)	14	7	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	15	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	13	–	2
Richard Mason (USA)	11	–	5
Przemyslaw Saleta (POL)	16	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Randall Yonker (USA)	1	6	–
Mike McCallum (JAM)	2	–	6
Frank Tate (USA)	3	1	4
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	4	10	3
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	5	3	8
Charles Williams (USA)	6	–	2
Ernest Mateen (USA)	7	–	9
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	8	4	7
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	9	7	5
Maurice Core (GB)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	11	5	11
Crawford Ashley (GB)	22	8	12
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	–	9	1
John Scully (USA)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	3	C	3
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frank Liles (USA)	1	2	6
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	6	9
Tony Byrd (USA)	4	3	2
Ray Close (GB)	5	–	7
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	6	11	8
James Cook (GB)	7	8	–
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	8	–	–
Tony Thornton (USA)	9	–	5
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	10	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	–	1	1
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	21	4	12
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	5	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	7	–
Steve Little (USA)	–	9	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	10	–
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	4
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	1	5
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	7	7
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	–	11
Otis Grant (CAN)	4	11	3
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	5	–	–
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	6	–	–
Roberto Duran (PAN)	7	9	12
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	8	3	2
Neville Brown (GB)	9	–	9
Reggie Johnson (USA)	10	2	1
Steve Collins (IRE)	–	4	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	5	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	15	6	6
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	22	8	–
Mike McCallum (JAM)	–	10	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	11	12	10
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	8

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Simon Brown (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	9	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	2	4	10
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	–	11
Julio C. Green (USA)	4	8	4
Ronald Wright (USA)	5	2	5
Stephen Martinez (USA)	6	–	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	8	–	8
Aaron Davis (USA)	9	3	–
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	10	6	12
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	1	–
Armand Picar (PHIL)	29	5	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	7	1
Ahmat Dottuev (RUS)	26	10	–
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	6
John Montes (USA)	15	–	7
Paul Vaden (USA)	16	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	–	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	2	2	1
James McGirt (USA)	3	10	6
Oba Carr (USA)	4	–	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	5	6	2
Gary Jacobs (GB)	6	5	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	7	8	8
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	8	–	–
Luis Santana (USA)	9	–	–
Hector Camacho (PR)	10	–	11
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	1	3
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	30	3	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	12	4	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	12
Andrew Murray (GUY)	11	9	5
David Gonzalez (USA)	18	–	9
Harold Brazier (USA)	14	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Frankie Randall (USA)	C	–	–

...M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
...Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
...Cesar Chavez (MEX)	1	1	–
...Kamau (USA)	2	10	11
...Tsuyu (AUSTRL)	3	–	1
...Hilligan (GB)	4	12	–
...Camacho (USA)	5	3	–
...Lopez (USA)	6	–	–
...Hagen (USA)	7	–	–
...Gonzalez (MEX)	8	–	–
...Lopez (MEX)	9	–	–
...Jean Merle (FRA)	10	2	–
...Cortes (ARG)	–	4	–
...Ingman (SA)	–	5	–
...Gonzalez (COL)	–	6	–
...Garza (USA)	28	7	–
...Park (KOR)	–	8	–
...Pineda (COL)	11	9	9
...Sanchez (DR)	–	–	2
...Moore (USA)	22	–	3
...Murray (USA)	21	–	4
...Padilla (COL)	–	–	5
...Hernandez (PR)	–	–	6
...Tyson (USA)	20	–	7
...Mayweather (USA)	19	–	8
...Scott (USA)	25	–	10

...ETWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
...Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
...Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
...Ruelas (USA)	–	6	C
...Johnson (USA)	1	2	2
...Mitchell (USA)	2	1	7
...Baptist Mendy (FRA)	3	4	4
...Julio (COL)	4	8	1
...Marchena (MEX)	5	–	–
...Sample (USA)	6	–	–
...Pudleton (USA)	7	–	3
...Paez (MEX)	8	–	–
...Thobela (SA)	9	5	8
...Silva (ARG)	10	–	–
...Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
...Lopez (USA)	–	7	9
...Griffith (USA)	13	9	11
...Molina (COL)	25	10	5
...Marimon (COL)	–	–	6
...Fagan (USA)	–	–	10

...IGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
...Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
...Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
...John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
...Ruelas (USA)	1	5	4
...James Leija (USA)	2	–	–
...Grove (USA)	3	–	2
...Garcia (COL)	4	–	–
...Yoma (FRA)	5	7	7
...Tuur (HOLL)	6	–	10
...Pep (CAN)	7	–	–
...nson (USA)	8	–	5
...Hugo Paz (ARG)	9	3	–
...Cornett (AUSTRL)	10	–	–
...Guevara (VEN)	20	1	–
...Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
...De La Hoya (USA)	–	4	6
...Warren (USA)	17	6	–
...Joo Choi (KOR)	25	8	–
...Rodriguez (DR)	14	9	1
...Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
...Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
...Vargas (MEX)	–	–	8
...Speed (USA)	11	–	9

...ATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
...Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
...Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
...Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
...Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
...Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
...Arroyal (PHIL)	3	7	4
...Beleno (COL)	4	–	2
...Lizarraga (USA)	5	–	–
...Saguid (PHIL)	6	8	12
...Segura (USA)	7	11	1
...Green (USA)	8	–	3
...Kyun Park (KOR)	9	2	–
...Vila Ramos (DR)	10	–	–
...Mendoza (COL)	–	1	–

Paul Hodkinson (GB)	–	3	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	18	4	6
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	–	5	–
Jesse James Leija (USA)	–	6	–
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	9	–
Stephane Haccoun (FRA)	11	10	–
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	–	–	5
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	7
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	8
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	9
Ole Kiatwanway (THAI)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	3
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	–	7
Jesse Benavides (USA)	5	8	–
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	6	–	–
Richard Duran (USA)	7	–	–
Rudy Zavala (USA)	8	12	11
Jose Badillo (PR)	9	–	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	10	7	–
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	27	1	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	2	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	14	3	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	4	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	21	5	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	–	6	1
Jose Rincones (VEN)	23	9	8
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	16	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	2
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	4
Maui Diaz (USA)	19	–	5
Cesar Soto (MEX)	–	–	6
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	9
Cesar Polanco (DR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	2	10	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	3	1	3
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	4	12	8
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	5	–	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	6	9	12
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	7	–	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	8	3	10
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	9	2	–
John Armour (GB)	10	–	–
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	4	5
Abraham Torres (VEN)	26	5	9
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	–	7	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	–	8	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Harold Mestre (COL)	14	11	2
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	19	–	6
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	27	–	7

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	1	–	6
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	2	5	–
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	3	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	4	7	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	5	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	6	2	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	7	9	–
Adrian Ochoa (ARG)	8	–	–
Javier Torres (ARG)	9	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	10	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	3	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	–	4	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	6	–
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	–	8	–
Ivan Morales (PR)	–	10	–
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Robert Quiroga (USA)	–	–	2

Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Ja Ji Sabali (SA)	–	–	7
John Johnson (USA)	13	–	8
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	–	–	9
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	18	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	12	–
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	7
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	5	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	6	–	3
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	7	–	–
Danny Nunez (DR)	8	–	–
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	9	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	10	–	8
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	23	1	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	2	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	3	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	13	4	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	21	5	–
San Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	6	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	7	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	8	1
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	25	9	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	20	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	15	–	2
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	4
Robbie Regan (GB)	11	11	5
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	6
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	9
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	17	–	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	6	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	1	–	1
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	7	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	8	7
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	5	–	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	6	–	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	7	–	–
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	8	4	2
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	9	9	10
Domingo Sosa (DR)	10	–	–
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	25	1	5
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	18	2	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	23	3	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	13	5	11
Yong Jim Kim (KOR)	21	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	4
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	6
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Marcos Pacheco (MEX)	29	–	9

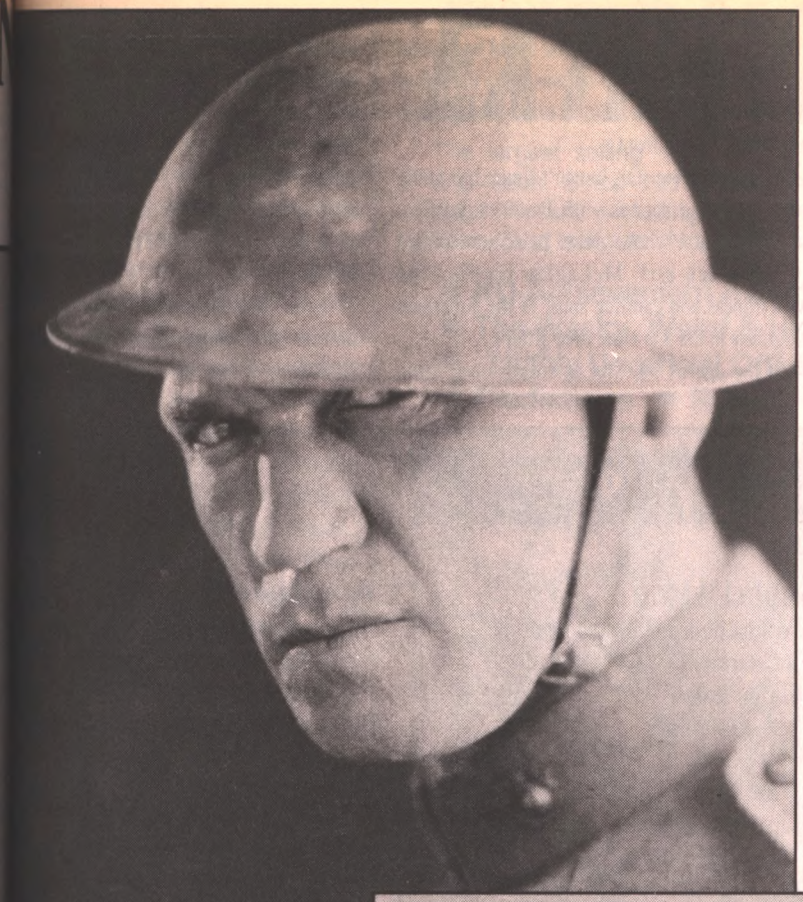
STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Kermin Guardia (COL)	1	4	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	2	5	7
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	4	3	1
Toto Pow Phongasawang (THAI)	5	–	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	6	2	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	7	–	12
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	8	8	–
Jack Russell (AUSTRAL)	9	–	–
Naknoi Sow Thanikul (THAI)	10	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	9
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	15	6	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	24	7	6
Kusuo Eguchi (JAP)	25	9	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	27	10	2
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	3
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	–	–	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	5
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	8
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

MOVIES LURED McLAGLEN FROM BOXING CAREER

From THE RING, May 1940

Victor, the Rough Man of the Cinema, Was Circus Performer, Wrestler, Boxer, Policeman, and Army Officer Before He Gained Fame in the Talkies—His Father, a Bishop in South Africa, Encouraged Sons in an Athletic Career—Fred McKay, Brother, Killed in World War



...glen starred for famed director Raoul ... in ***What Price Glory*** *(1926). The role ... for a "hard-boiled guy" and a "tough ... so the former fighter was a perfect fit. As a ... McLaglen may not have reached the ... of Sullivan, Corbett, or Dempsey, but he ...rely a finer actor.*

...ps McLaglen's most famous film was ... Din (1939), which co-starred Cary Grant. ... starred in ***The Glorious Adventure*** *with ... Dianna Manners. McLaglen's finest ...rmance, however, came in* ***The Informer*** *..., for which he won an Academy Award for ...tor.*

By Harvey Thorne

It's a far cry from the prize ring to the motion picture lot. Fighters from the days of John L. Sullivan to the present have tried their hand at theatrical work of some sort—vaudeville, the legitimate stage, or the screen—but only a few who have attempted to make the grade have succeeded. It was Sullivan who started the ball rolling, and it was James J. Corbett who reached the top rung of the ladder as a thespian who had graduated from the pugilistic field. What Sullivan and Corbett were to the legitimate stage, Victor McLaglen is to the motion picture industry. He has made the greatest strides and heads the list of former fighters now parading before the public in the movies.

McLaglen as a professional boxer did not reach the heights of Sullivan, Corbett, Jack McAuliffe, Jimmy Britt, and Jack Dempsey, among other boxers who became actors, but as a motion picture actor he rates exceptionally high. His exploits in the ring are recalled by those who followed the sport 30 years ago, but it is his work on the screen that keeps him in the public

eye today.

Vic McLaglen, unlike his predecessors who went over to the drama while they were still in their fighting prime, quit boxing for the cinema because he thought the latter a more lucrative field. When Raoul Walsh started filming *What Price Glory*, he wanted a "hard-boiled guy," a "tough mug" to play Captain Flagg, so he selected McLaglen to do the job. That Walsh's choice was justified was evident by Victor's wonderful performance, in which he was a "wow."

He looked tough and acted tough. His screen performance was everything that could be desired for the part. All he had to do was to be natural to give a perfect characterization of a human, tough army officer at the front.

But as a movie star, he isn't limited to being tough. In some scenes with Dolores del Rio, Mexican beauty, whom grease paint transformed into a French girl, McLaglen typified the awkwardness and carefree spirit of the American Doughboy in his war-time love affairs.

At the age of 14, McLaglen ran away from his home in London and enlisted for the B War. At the end of the enlistment in the Br Army, he migrated to Canada, where he joine prospecting party in the Cobalt silver rush. W Cobalt was wiped out by fire, McLaglen wen Quebec and started his fighting career. He m with success, and in three months he w acclaimed the Eastern Canadian heavywei champion.

It was then that Biddy Bishop, internation famous sportsman, who still is living in t Northwest, in the State of Washington, took

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1940*

Joey Archibald

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Arturo Godoy
2. Tony Galento
3. Bob Pastor
4. Tommy Farr
5. Johnny Paycheck
6. Lee Savold
7. Red Burman
8. Nathan Mann
9. Roscoe Toles
10. Buddy Walker

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Billy Conn
1. Gus Lesnevich
2. Melio Bettina
3. Len Harvey
4. Jock McAvoy
5. Teddy Yarosz
6. Al Gainer
7. Anton Christoforidis
8. Tony Cisco
9. Jimmy Webb
10. Larry Lane

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Ceferino Garcia
2. Tony Zale
3. Ken Overlin
4. Al Hostak
5. Ben Brown
6. Atilio Sabatino
7. Ron Richards
8. Georgie Abrams
9. Victor Dellicurti
10. Coley Welch

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Henry Armstrong
1. Milt Aron
2. Cocoa Kid
3. Fritzie Zivic
4. Holman Williams
5. Izzy Jannazzo
6. Pedro Montanez
7. Maxie Berger
8. Steve Mamakos
9. Mike Kaplan
10. Arthur Danahar

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lou Ambers
1. Davey Day
2. Sammy Angott
3. Jackie Wilson
4. Eric Boon
5. Pete Lello
6. Bob Montgomery
7. Paul Junior
8. Dave Castilloux
9. Johnny Bellus
10. George Latka

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Archibald
1. Jimmy Perrin
2. Pete Scalzo
3. Simon Chavez
4. Bobby Ruffin
5. Jackie Wilson
6. Chalky Wright
7. Al Reid
8. Spider Armstrong
9. Young Rightmire
10. Harry Jeffra

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Tony Olivera
2. George Pace
3. Lou Salica
4. Little Dado
5. K.O. Morgan
6. Little Pancho
7. Kui Kong Young
8. Kid Tanner
9. Manuel Ortiz
10. Pablo Dano

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Jackie Paterson
2. Enrico Urbinati
3. Tiny Bostock
4. Paddy Ryan
5. Johnny Boom
6. Jimmy Stubbs
7. Joe Curran
8. Jackie Jurich
9. Small Montana
10. Rinty Monaghan

st in Vic. He wanted McLaglen to come
of the Pacific Coast. In the meantime,
aglen worked in a side show as a strongman
wrestler.

Traveling through a college town, he took
ter another of the college's football team
pinned each member to the mat, the entire
ing downed in less than an hour.

The side show was too strenuous a job, so
ccepted the proposition of Bishop and hied
elf west to Tacoma, Washington. He arrived
the summer, and for his first bout, Bishop
ged a contest with Curley Carr. To avoid
interference, Biddy had all hands board a
, and McLaglen, Bishop, Carr, and his
rage set out for a small island in Puget
d. On the way, the boat touched Seattle,
e Lonnie Austin, Frank Clancy, Mark
ghnessy, a prominent Seattle doctor, and a
er of Seattle sports were taken aboard.

When the island was reached, Bishop got his
busy pitching the ring on the turf. The
e was selected, and within a short time, the
were called to the ring and the bout was on.

was a terrific battle, with plenty of gore
d. When the contestants faced each other
the fifth round, it became obvious that
Laglen was the stronger and more vicious
cher, and that his opponent couldn't last
longer. He didn't. He was knocked cold
a right to the jaw that raised him off the
and and landed with a thud to doze off into
mland.

A month later at Aberdeen, Washington,
Laglen defeated Emil Schock of Tacoma in a
20-round affair.

Then came the highlight, and also practically
nd, of McLaglen's career in a meeting with
Johnson. The world champion had just
ned from Australia, where he had taken the
from Tommy Burns, and to get a little extra
ge, he consented to a six-round, no-decision
h with Vic, the bout to take place at
couver, Canada. McLaglen exhibited plenty
urage in that bout, but found Lil' Arthur his
er. Johnson won the fight, but it went into
records as a no-decision mill, with McLaglen
ng the limit.

Following the battle with Johnson,
Laglen and his brother, Arthur, decided to go
into vaudeville. When the company went
e, he and Arthur journeyed to Hawaii, then
ed the Fiji Islands and Tahiti, and went on
there to Australia with their act.

They were in Australia when the Kalgoorlie
rush started and joined the other

(Continued on page 72)

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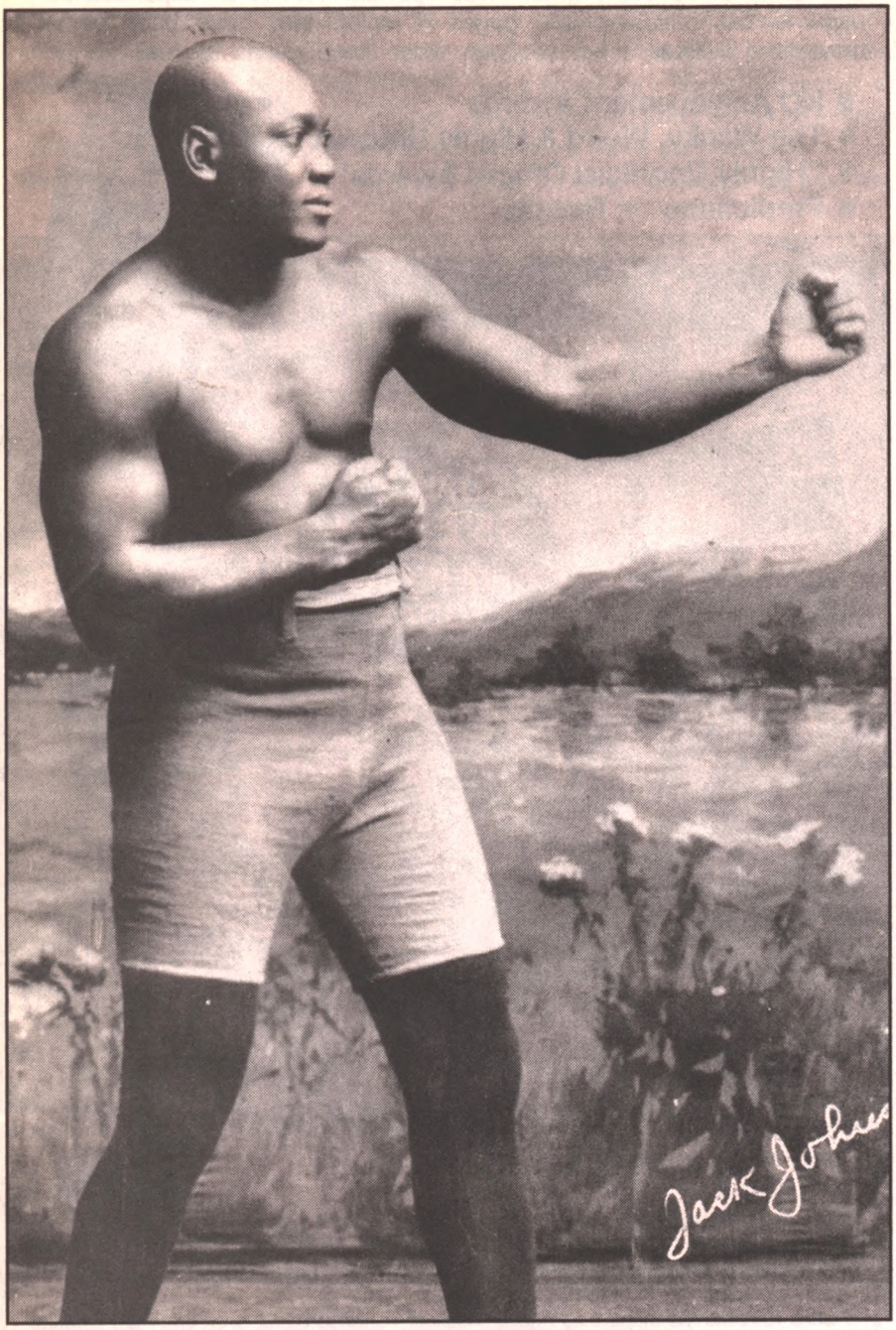
Ring Classic

(Continued from page 71)



On March 10, 1909, heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, fighting for the first time since winning the title from Tommy Burns, engaged in a six-round exhibition with McLaglen in Vancouver. Johnson dominated, but McLaglen, showing a great deal of courage, managed to last the distance.

prospectors. Both found the going pretty tough. They nearly died from want of water in the desert. Many of the prospectors passed away, but the hardy, well-conditioned McLaglen brothers were among the survivors.

During the World War, McLaglen served as a lieutenant in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in Mesopotamia. He saw action on various fronts.

Few people know that Fred McKay, former South African boxer, the man who couldn't take it when engaged in ring battles but was a hero on the battlefield, was a brother of McLaglen. Fred died a hero's death in the British attack on Turkey during the World War. He exhibited the courage of a lion in the face of the enemy, yet when he took part in boxing bouts in this country he seemed to fear injury every time he faced an opponent.

Victor and his brother Fred were members of the Winnipeg police force. When they quit, Fred became a bartender at the Savoy Hotel and later turned to boxing. He won the championship of Canada by defeating Walter Adams at Dauphin, Manitoba, then came to the United States, where he boxed under the name of Fred McKay. He was stopped by Gunboat Smith in two rounds, knocked out by Carl Morris in the first, and stopped by several others. As a fighter in the ring he was a failure, but as a soldier they came no braver than Fred McKay.

Brother Arthur likewise was a boxer. He was knocked out by John Wille of Chicago in the second round.

After the World War, Victor spent much of his time at the National Sporting Club of London, where he was a favorite. He was matched to fight Frank Goddard, former heavyweight champion of England, and Victor received a severe beating in that battle. He was knocked out in the third round.

That affair proved to McLaglen that his fighting days were over, he then being 29 years old, and he got a job in England in the movies. It was there that he met J. Stuart Blackton, motorboat enthusiast and cinema producer, and Blackton offered him the male lead in *The Glorious Adventure*, in which he proved a great success. Since then his movie career has been a busy one. His great success was as Captain Flagg. He won the Academy Award for his work in *The Informer*. He starred with Lady Dianna Manners in *The Glorious Adventure*.

Victor McLaglen is a linguist and a horse fancier. He is an ardent boxing and wrestling fan.

During the World War, when Victor was a captain in the British Army, his father was at home ministering to his people. When the call for aid for the war wounded was made by society designated for such purpose, Bishop McLaglen astonished the British ministry with an announcement in the *All Sports Weekly* to don gloves for five rounds, with any bishop, age or weight no bar, for the fund for disabled soldiers.

nnouncement caused intense perturbation among the staid members of church, but only a laugh from the bishop at the uneasiness he had ught.

In fact, fearing that his challenge would bring no response, Bishop Laglen went a step further—he extended his offer to any sports editor his ge. The Bishop apparently was teased from his religious devotions to more material affairs by an article that had been printed in a London per about Victor McLaglen and his profession. The father lost no time to the writer to task and to throw his support to his son's profession by a ingness to engage in a public boxing match, with the stipulation that all be turned over to the wounded.

commenting on the caustic article in the London paper, Bishop Laglen wrote:

"Why is it astonishing that a man who chooses to fight in the ring for y should be the son of a bishop or a man of considerable educational ments? All of my sons served in the war, and I should be ashamed of e who could not use his hands. Neither should I wish to see them rgo the long periods of work and training necessary to attain the fine ical condition required for a contest, without payment.

"Boxing is a splendid sport. I should like to see it followed by the youth the world. If we had more of that, we would have less combat with deadly ons and more settlements of disputes with the weapons that God has

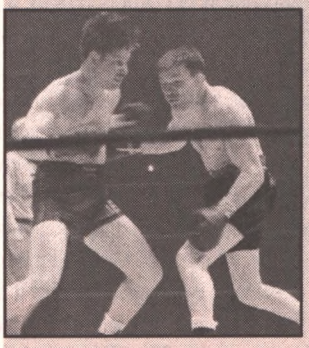
McLaglen spars with Lili Damita, his co-star in ***The Cockeyed World*** *(1929). The British actor, who was a big boxing and wrestling fan, also worked as a policeman, circus performer, wrestler, and army officer.*

to man—his hands. I see nothing contrary to Christianity in boxing. It good, wholesome sport. The opposition is solely the nonsense of those have forgotten that they are men living in a world of men and not of rian old ladies."

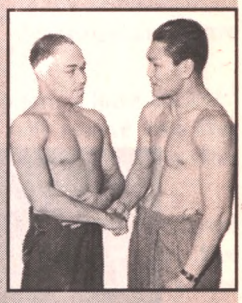
This brought about considerable comment in the London sports circles, a bravo for the Bishop from South Africa, whose son, Captain Victor Laglen, was then in training for his contest with Joe Goddard. ■

THE RING, May 1940

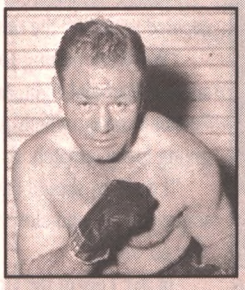
The Cover: Leading heavyweight contender Arturo Godoy of Chile is bucking for a second try at world champion Joe Louis. Godoy, who holds a pair of wins over Tony Galento, lost a close decision to Louis in February. Godoy is ranked first by THE RING.



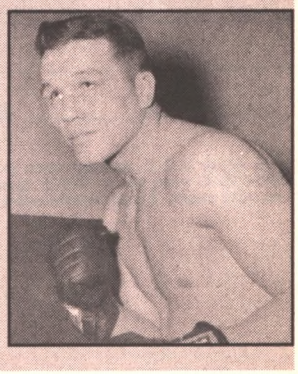
Turning Off The Power: As reported by Nat Fleischer, Al "Bummy" Davis climbed through the ropes at Madison Square Garden carrying a record of 35-0-2 and a menacing sneer. Waiting for him was world lightweight champion Lou Ambers, who, in a non-title fight, proceeded to box brilliantly en route to a 10-round points win. Ambers, wrote Fleischer, was never better.



Armstrong Goes For Four: Trying for a record fourth different title, reigning welterweight king Henry Armstrong struggles to a 10-round draw vs. defending middleweight champion Ceferino Garcia at Gilmore Stadium in Los Angeles. Covering for THE RING, Eddie Borden scores for Armstrong by 4-2-4 in rounds.



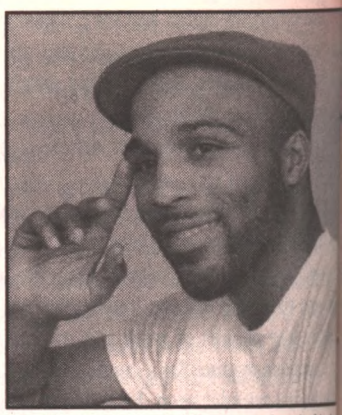
Fighters From Everywhere: Writer and illustrator Ted Carroll examines the various trades and professions that have contributed to boxing's pool of talent. Some examples: Johnny Paycheck was a bellhop; Bob Pastor was a college student; Lee Savold (pictured) was a farm worker; and Jim Flynn was a fireman.



Zale As Hard As Nails: Gene Kessler reports from ringside in Chicago, where Tony Zale explodes onto the middleweight scene by scoring a non-title 10-round decision over NBA champion Al Hostak. Zale, who answers the opening bell a 4-1 underdog, benefits from the fact that Hostak refractures his brittle left hand midway through the bout.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



McGirt promises he'll use two hands this ti

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

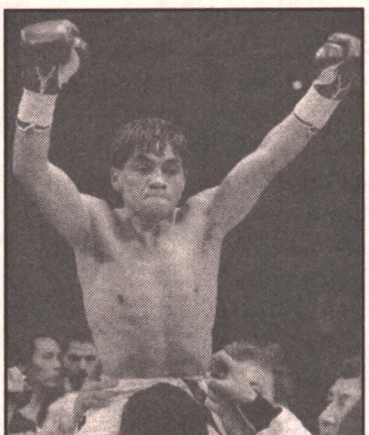
The slew of recent upsets has affected not only the status quo, but also the fights we'd like to see. A few months ago, WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker was considering a rematch with Julio Cesar Chavez, or maybe even a showdown with the bigger Terry Norris. Chavez and Norris have since been beaten. As a result, Whitaker is headed for a second bout with Buddy McGirt, whom he outpointed in March 1993. As we went to press, Whitaker and McGirt were preparing to face Santos Cardona and Livingstone Bramble, respectively. Assuming they're both victorious, they'll clash in September.

Why, we asked McGirt, will it be different this time?

"I'll have two arms; that sums it all up," he said. (In their first bout, McGirt fought with a torn rotator cuff his left shoulder.) "My left hook is, I'd say, 93 percent back. I think he'll be more cautious this time. It'll be mo of a chess match. There'll be rounds I'll be dead on his chest, and others where I'll stay away. He's got nothing hurt me with, and I'll be doing all the things I wanted to do the first time but couldn't."

Added Al Certo, McGirt's outspoken manager, "This time Buddy should be able to chase him out of the ring."

Most rematches are disappointing, but given the fighters' styles, the Whitaker-McGirt rematch figures to be close encounter of the second kind.



Chiquita is going to make Carbajal wait

THE MILLION-DOLLAR GAMBLE

After Chiquita Gonzalez gained revenge by outpointing Michael Carbajal in February, it w assumed the junior flyweights would clash for a third time. After all, there wasn't much money to b made against anyone else.

Now it appears Carbajal-Gonzalez III will have to wait. WBC/IBF champion Chiquita ha decided to defend the title in June or July, probably against a contender from the Far East.

"We were hoping to get a direct rematch, but he feels he needs three months of training f another Carbajal fight, and he didn't want to do it so soon," explained Tony Curtis, matchmaker fo Forum Boxing, which promotes Gonzalez. "Also, he said Carbajal took a couple of fights befor giving *him* a rematch, so ...

"I think he should have taken Carbajal right back. He'll make $200,000, maybe $250,000, again someone else, and close to $1-million for Carbajal. He's risking about $750,000, and so many thing can go wrong."

In the Year of the Upset, Curtis just might prove prophetic.

LISTEN UP ...

Where does **Herbie Hide** go from here? After upsetting **Michael Bentt**, the unbeaten British heavyweight rumored to be considering big-money matches against countryman **Frank Bruno** and **Tommy Morrison** ... HBO-televised bantamweight unification between **Orlando Canizales** (IBF) and **Junior Jones** (WBA) remains possibility for this summer. Less likely is a junior featherweight unification between **Kennedy McKinney** (IB and **Tracy Patterson** (WBC). As we went to press, Patterson was scheduled to defend against **Richard Duran** he emerges victorious, he'll face a mandatory defense against the **Don King**-promoted **Julio Gervacio**. That ma be enough to send him to featherweight.

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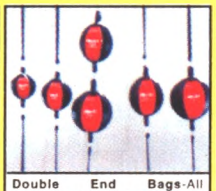

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